

ASHES ALIVE: LENT

Lenten devotionals written by
LGBTQI+ Christians and their friends.



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Ashes Alive: Lent 2023

Lenten Devotionals by LGBTQI+
Christians & their friends.

Ashes Alive Lent 2023 is based on the [Revised Common Lectionary, Year A](#)

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Edited by Liggera Edmonds-Allen

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Introduction to Ashes Alive: Lent 2023 by Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen

Welcome! We are so glad that you are here with us!

Ashes Alive Lent: 2023 is the fourth in an ongoing devotional series written by LGBTQI+ Christians and their friends from all over the world, from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions, expressions and points of view.

To preserve as best as possible the unique voices of our contributors their entries are very lightly edited and only for clarity when needed. Our goal is for the authentic voices to be heard. If you - are someone you know - would like to be a writer for future devotionals, please email me:

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For many people, devotionals are something they have used before, perhaps for years. For others, this is entirely new concept. What our devotional series intends to do is to share the Scripture passages of the day - currently what is known as Year A in the Revised Common Lectionary. Many Christian faiths and denominations use the Revised Common Lectionary to guide their church services, and many individuals use the Revised Common Lectionary to guide their personal Scripture reading.

Personal Scripture reading can be accompanied by written commentary - a devotional volume, like this one. Devotional compilations are often written by one person or written with a particular theme or perspective.

You may choose to use your own Bible or access an online version. An online version we recommend is Bible Gateway where you can easily choose from different translations (NIV, NRSV, KJV, etc): <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Our theme is love. We believe that all people are made in the image of God, and dearly loved by God. Each and every person has wisdom to share about God and about Scripture. This project seeks to share and amplify voices that often aren't heard together, and each represents the infinite diversity of God.

You may agree - or you may disagree - with what you read here. That, too, is part of the beautiful diversity of God.

May you be as blessed as we have been as we have worked together to create this for you!

How to use Ashes Alive: Lent 2023 by Rev. Kim Purl

Ashes Alive: Lent 2023 devotionals are written by LGBTQia+ Christians and their friends. Contributors write from a wide array of Christian conviction and belief at the intersection of faith and LGBTQia+.

Each has freedom to write from their own beliefs and doctrines without harm to another because we believe there is room for all at the feet of Jesus.

This is the heart of holy dialogue.

How you use the devotional guide is up to you. You may choose to find a time and space to begin with prayer, receive the message of the day's devotional and prayerfully reflect.

We have a special invitation for you!

Please consider joining a Converge Group. They are for Christians and for those who aren't Christian but want to talk about Christianity. We have groups for LGBTQia+ folks and for those who love them, in person, and online. Always free.

Email marian@parity.nyc with your questions or interest, or visit: <https://www.holydialogues.org/converge-groups>

We look forward to meeting you!

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Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday

Contributor: [Rev. Rob Van Ess](#)

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming (Joel 2:1NRSV).”

This text from the Book of Joel is God’s coming out story. People make lots of assumptions about God. Here the prophet proclaims the day of the Lord when God will reveal their authentic selves to the world. God steps out of the closet and calls us to do the same. People make lots of assumptions about us too. In response, the prophet calls for us to leave our closets behind and repent by revealing our authentic selves to the world. This chapter highlights that the day of the Lord, coming out of the closet, is an apocalypse of sorts, an end of the world, or doomsday, type of event.

My own coming out story was an apocalypse. I was 18 when I returned from my first year of college to tell my mother that I was gay. She listened, asked questions, and told me she loved me. Unbeknownst to me she told her mother who had a very different response. My grandmother said I was disgusting and had brought shame onto our family. As families do, the news of my coming out spread like wildfire. Remember, all this took place unbeknownst to me.

The next week my great-uncle Frank called and invited me to a pool party at his new house. I agreed to go, not knowing what was waiting for me in the backyard. I arrived fashionably late, and the party was in full swing with 4 generations of my extended family swimming and enjoying the BBQ. When I first walked in my Uncle Frank warmly welcomed me to his party.

Then he spoke up and said to everyone he had an announcement to make. He said that I was his great-nephew and that I was always welcome in his home. He told everyone at the party that he had no problem with gay people. He even said he respected gay people as when his daughter was living in San Francisco he was grateful for the support of her gay friends who looked after her. And then he said if you have a problem with that you need to leave.

I was shocked. Some family members snickered, others looked at me in ways I perceived to be judgmental and condemning. My grandmother shook her head in anger as her older brother went against her wishes by accepting me as a gay man publicly and without apology. It all happened so fast. Some people would talk to me, many others would not. My grandmother would not even look at me let alone respond when I said hello.

Looking back I see now that I didn’t understand how big of a deal this was for me. I didn’t know that my coming out would be the first day of the rest of my life. I didn’t realize how powerful it is to have this memory of being affirmed and defended by a member of my birth family. My uncle was someone I admired and respected my entire life and his love and support meant everything, as surprising as it was. It means even more to me now.

Ash Wednesday is like that. We are called to face our greatest fears without knowing what lies on the other side of a closed closet door. When we do, we will find God, like my uncle Frank, waiting to welcome us into a new life where we can be true to ourselves, to God, and others. The gift of freedom claimed by the children of God. No matter what the closets in our life represent, the gift of new life is always there, waiting for us. Like my uncle Frank who loved me so God loves all of us. Know this and you will find meaning and purpose in your life. Amen.

Thursday, February 23, 2023:

Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7

Contributor: [Paul Nderitu](#)

Psalm 51 is acknowledging the recurring problem of sin in God's chosen people. This gives us an opportunity to recall our personal sin and that of our communities throughout our lives.

As an Lgbtq+ Christian in the rural part of Kenya, I feel the pain of conviction and hence run to our heavenly father for forgiveness. Our God is always ready to forgive us and make us whole again no matter how our sins would be, so let's always feel free to ask and we will definitely get what we request from our dear father from heaven.

The book of psalms 51 also remind us as to pray for each other and mean well to each other ,we should make everybody feel wanted and loved in Christ Jesus, for that is a command from God and that will make us unite to praise him, most of the time we are condemned for being lgbtq by other Christians ,the book is encouraging us to pray for them and forgive them ,let us not revenge but let us find a place in our hearts to forgive them because after all the only person who created us is God and he created us with his own image and likeness.

Romans 1: 4-5 as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the son of God by being raised from death. Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. (GNB)

In the book of Romans, Paul introduces himself as a servant, a slave of Jesus Christ whom God has called to be an apostle. The explanation of Paul about this gospel is that, it was promised before in the scriptures about Gods beloved son. He then explains to us how Jesus lived ,died as one of us and became Lord through resurrection .Paul received his apostleship and grace from Christ Jesus who revealed himself to Paul and powerfully took hold of his life to dispatch him to preach the gospel.

Jonah 3:5 the people of Nineveh believed Gods message. So, they decided that everyone should fast, and all the people, from the greatest to the least, put on sack cloth to show that they had repented. (GNB)

The book of Jonah is very interesting, imagine Jonah in the belly of a fish and also God warning the people of Nineveh. Jonah never imagined God saving Nineveh, yes, they had sinned against God but God spared them. We have many Jonahs today in our churches, they cannot believe that God can save a gay person like me, they wait for my destruction and they get angry when they see me around them. They should have known that God is all merciful, when you truly turn to him and repent, He is quick to forgive, God is God to all creation he doesn't discriminate all he needs from us is just to obey and trust him. I wonder why many Christians complain when they hear Lgbtq+ Christians. God loves us all and we are also called to partake in the Lords table. God bless.

Friday, February 24, 2023

Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17

Contributor: [Liggera Edmonds-Allen](#)

Jonah 2

1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. 2 He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. 3 You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. 4 I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' 5 The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. 6 To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. 7 "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. 8 "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. 9 But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'" 10 And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

The story of Jonah (and especially the whale) really taps into the oral tradition of religion and spirituality. This is perhaps the most theatrical work - full of jokes, complaints, and silly images and moments.

Consider Jonah - Jonah, blessed Jonah, prophet Jonah - who is given a task by God. Does Jonah obey? Does he hop to, with humility, in perfect service to his LORD?

No! Of course not! Jonah grabs the first ship out of town - the farthest, FASTEST ship, and tries to shirk the responsibility. Then, of course, the seas grow tumultuous, and the crew wonders what curse is onboard to bring forth such a calamity. All eyes fall to Jonah, who is thrown overboard. Then the sea grows calm, and the crew makes their vows to God - all while Jonah is bobbing in the water, before being swallowed by a great fish.

Been there, Jonah.

I think we have all had a moment where God calls to us. I don't think it usually hits people like a lightning bolt, or like the miraculous 'calling' I hear about from pastors and theologians. I think God calls to us in little whispers of our name. God says, 'follow justice,' and 'go to your people,' and 'don't take the easy way out.'

And we should respond - 'God! I am here!'

But sometimes, I just want to curl up and pull the covers over my head. Especially nowadays. Wake up, look at my phone, feel some existential dread, go back to bed, repeat. It is God that taps my shoulder. It is God that says, 'kid, you've got work to do.'

And - without fail - when I do the work, and fight for my trans siblings, and see my queer community ... I feel better. I feel that love and light, warm on the beach and covered in the bile of a giant fish.

We are on our backs, staring at the sky. We are so, so tired. We want to go home. And God forgives us of that wish. God reminds us - there is work to do.

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7

Contributor: [Josphine Wambui](#)

I grew up in our village where I was raised by my grandmother, she was a staunch catholic who observed the church calendar very closely. She never missed on any church event, meet her on the road or garden and she is reciting her rosary. On the other hand, my grandfather was a traditional African who believed in giving animal sacrifice to his god under a sacred tree. They lived peacefully and only quelled during lent, my grandmother warned us that we are not supposed to take meat during this season and here grandfather is giving us roasted meat to celebrate that his god answered prayers. It was obvious that we had to obey our grandfather, not because we believed in his god but because of the meat.

When I grew older, I understood the meaning of lent and why this season was so special to my grandmother, I started to observe it in high school because it was of catholic faith. Things didn't last long because I was expelled from school after a girl that I had turned down reported that I was sexually harassing her. The girl had written to me a love note which I replied by telling her I am not a lesbian and may be she feared that I would out her and she decided to frame me. I am more masculine and an obvious suspect to those kinds of allegations. she reported me to the principal who wrote me a very demeaning letter to make sure I would not be enrolled to another school. The ministry of education had ordered that any student found in same sex relationship should not be given another chance in any other school in Kenya.

This is the time I started doubting my grandmothers God, at some point I even thought my grandfather was right with his traditional god. how can this happen to me and not someone else.

At this point I almost lost my faith in God. but our ways are not Gods ways and our thoughts are not Gods thought.

God intervened in my situation in a very special way. Bad news in our village spread faster than bush fire and that is how zaweria found out about me. I didn't know I can find a closeted lesbian woman in our village and when she heard about me, she organized how I can secretly move to a safe place. I was taken to pastor Megan who introduced me to her local fellowship of Lgbtq+ persons. For the first time in my life I felt safe and wanted. And now I am among the children of God who are writing this for the world. I am no longer afraid that I am a lesbian, although I still cannot go to my village. I am happy that God sent destiny connectors my way. Thank you, Rev. Marian and the entire Parity fraternity, for being a blessing to many of us in this village.

Psalms 51 is a prayer for forgiveness. This special chapter gives us a chance to self-examine ourselves on our relationship with God. I still find myself with many flaws, I fall short of the grace of God. today I am a better version of who I was, I used to compare myself with other Christians and I felt bad about myself, I considered my self spiritually weak and very shallow. This day I humble myself before God because I still need deep grace from God, there is nothing I can do to cleanse myself, I rely on The blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross. Dear God, give each one of us the courage we need to look within ourselves and attend to what we see in our hearts. Help us to develop a sense of knowing when we are confronted by our weakness. Help us to experience the joy of reconciliation with God. Amen

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Contributor: [Shirley Mullen](#)

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

There are voices that stalk us, haunting our days and nights, whispering to us that we are not enough, that we do not have enough, that we have landed on this planet on unfair terms without even the minimum supplies necessary for our journey. They hint that we have been cheated, that the rules of the game of life have been set up against us, that we have somehow been cheated of what we most justly deserve. And of course, someone must be to blame.

The voices come to us as they did to Adam and Eve (See Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7), when we least expect it, when we thought we were enjoying ourselves with friends and family, trusting that a Gracious, Loving God had arranged the world for our exploration and joy. “But it can’t be,” the voices say, “Look at yourself and then look at what those other people have. You are being naïve to think that you are enough.” The voices become more insistent, gradually turning our gratitude into discontent, resentment, and eventually anger.

The voices come to us as they did to Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11) when we find ourselves alone in the desert places of our lives. “You do not have what it takes for the specific demands of being You in the world. They—whoever “they” are—will not understand you or appreciate you. Even those who should support you will abandon you and leave you helpless by the side of the road. You are too vulnerable in your own skin for the harsh realities of the world.

Let’s stir up some magic. Let’s give you something to offer to the crowds besides your very self. In short, let’s arm you against the limitations of being your particular, individual version of God’s image on the earth.

The voices came to us most powerfully in the areas of God’s greatest gifts to us, our sexuality, our capacity for intimacy and our invitation to love.

For me, it was in the area of being single. For over 50 years I kept being reminded by friends and family, that no matter what my other accomplishments, I was not married. When would I “settle down” and live like everyone else in my circles? What was wrong with me that I could not find that “one true love” without whom my life would supposedly not be “enough”? For some of my most treasured students, it is in the area of being LGBTQ+, in the context of communities and a society that tells them in a thousand ways that they are not “enough,” that they should be ashamed of who they are, and show some other face than their own to the world.

In this Lenten Season, we are invited to focus on the life of our Lord Jesus Christ as He sought to embody in his life and work the transparent vulnerability of God’s Love for the world—not for the world in the abstract—but for each individual person, just as they are. We are invited to choose to model our own lives after Jesus (the second Adam, as described in Romans 5: 12-19)—to trust that God’s provisions are enough for the particular person God wants us to be in the world. We are called away from our discontent and our scheming efforts to be someone we are not—to seize powers and to wear masks that are not ours—to protect ourselves from the vulnerability we feel in our own skin.

The calling of Lent is a costly calling as it was for our Lord Jesus. It will involve choosing not to second guess the terms of our lives; it will involve submitting to the limitations of our own humanity and our own particularity with gifts and with burdens that we might not have chosen for ourselves. But in the end, we have before us the Wondrous and Mysterious Hope that through this submission will come for us, as it did for our Lord Jesus, the manifestation of God’s lavish Grace and Abundant Life to those around us, in ways that only we can give.

May God make us adequate for this Holy Adventure in this Lenten Season.

Contributor: [Steve Maina](#)

Sometimes back there was a movement that called itself ex-gay. They got praised on the social media because they had “turned” back to “normal” ways. They got so much support from religious leaders and they were used as an example to show the rest of us that we can be delivered from being queer. This is what pushed me to cry to God everyday for salvation. I wondered how this God works, why save them and not me. I needed to be saved from being queer than any other person, I was tired of hiding from my family, I was tired of running away from myself. I needed this God so much in my life but it was like this God is for specific people.

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin (KJV)

What a relief to know that your sins are forgiven. Before I gave my life to Christ, I could always feel guilty. I thought it was my sexuality that made me feel guilty before the Lord, little did I know that I was a sinner because I had not accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. I am now free because I know whatever I do, I do it to the glory of God. its hard to live as openly queer in Kenya, we have many enemies and most of the times we go to hiding. Elijah was a mighty prophet of God, but at this particular time he ran for his life.

1 st kings 3-5 “And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to beer-Sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, it is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him and said unto him, arise and eat. (KJV)

Elijah had just experienced a dramatic climax to his ministry in his confrontation with the worshippers of Baal on Mount Carmel. That spectacular revelation of God in the fire on Mount Carmel would remain the most sensational triumph of his career. In our view, he walked away from Mount Carmel a hero. But chapter nineteen is not very heroic. Jezebel would not give up so easily. She vowed to kill this troublesome prophet of God. Elijah feared for his life. So, he ran.

Here we see Elijah as a very ordinary human being. The hero of Mount Carmel quickly became the despondent loner crying, “I’ve had enough!” In many areas of life, great victories are often followed by times of doubt, discouragement, and depression. Emotional stress, physical fatigue, individual personalities, body chemistry, genetic makeup, and other factors can sometimes combine to bring on the blues or even deeper depression. Most often, these feelings are totally unrelated to our spiritual commitment. They are simply the result of being human, when we suffer, it results to physical, mental and emotional pain. We ask God so many questions and sometimes like Elijah we wish to die. But the answer is God has got this.

Hebrews 2:10 “for it became him, for whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (KJV)

Jesus died and rose again, He suffered to bring us salvation. He understands our suffering and He will take us through our hardest moments. Let us arise and eat from the Lords table because the journey is still long.

Be blessed.

Tuesday, February 28, 2023:

Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Contributor: [Nancy Mwangi](#)

Psalms 32 (Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. GNB)

In this psalm, king David is excited about forgiveness and wants all of us to shout about it. Sin is like a stain in our lives and the only solution is to seek forgiveness from God. no matter what sin has marred your life the grace of God is always sufficient. When our sins are forgiven, the burden of guilt is taken away and the feeling of being set free is just amazing. Sin makes us suffer physically, mentally and spiritually, all enjoyment of life is lost and we find no purpose to live. We must learn to confess our sins before God, when we do that, we can confidently join in David's joy when he writes that God forgave the guilt of my sin!

I love this psalm because, just like David I had sinned before God. yes, I was raised a Christian and I thought that was enough to take me to heaven because I was baptized and confirmed a Christian and even shared in the Lords table. but every time I could feel the guilt weighing me down because I knew deep down, I was a lesbian. I despised myself, I did not want to be associated with anyone and to say I was suffering is an understatement. My turning point came when I met an affirming pastor, I just had to be born again, I knelt before God and cast away my sins. The shame I had for being a lesbian and the guilt were taken away. I am so free and happy to say I am a child of God.

Genesis 4:1-16

As I write today's reflections, my heart is heavy as I read the story of Cain and Abel. In Kenya we have lost a beautiful soul by the name Edwin, he was killed by his "closest" friend.

The Lgbtq+ community in Kenya is in great shock, they are scared as we wonder where our safe place can be. In this chapter we see God warning Cain and the same time encouraged him in doing what is right. Doing right in the sight of God and not in the sight of man is what matters.

God does not abandon us when we are wrong but will always encourage us to do the right thing. God is always willing to give us a second chance.

When Cain sinned, he was not remorseful. Unlike king David, he was not sorry for his sin, he only felt that his punishment was too hard to bear. As a result, he went away cursed forever. True repentance brings God's forgiveness, if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.

Hebrews 4:14 (*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into heavens, Jesus the son of God, let us hold fast our profession. KJV*)

Our Lord Jesus Christ has passed in to a place of supreme power, and has no limits upon his ability to work, he is concerned with our problems. Let us then approach Gods throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Prayer:

Lord, I acknowledge today, that you are a just and a loving God and I come to you with a sincere heart. I confess my sins. Cleanse my heart with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Empower me to worship you in Spirit and in truth. Help us to obey your word, that we may come to you with confidence, with boldness, to the throne of grace from which all help comes from. In Jesus mighty name I pray. Amen

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14

Contributor: [Jimmy](#)

I didn't always know the purpose of Lent, having grown up in a protestant charismatic environment. Thankfully, to my benefit, I was recently reminded of its beautiful meaning. Even though it was not always a part of my spiritual practices, I am happy to explore it now seeking out God and the sacred in all of it.

Lately, I often find myself on this journey of discovering so many joyful spiritual traditions and ideas that were looked over by my past communities, Lent being one of them. In summary, Lent is preparation for Easter, a time of self-reflection, repentance, simple living, in anticipation of the coming resurrection.

I can think of no better tradition to partake in at this time. For me, this life season, long as it has lasted, has been a time for me to seek out new spaces and new places of grounding – spiritual, emotional, mental, relational, etc. However, it is not a new God I seek. I am seeking the same God I knew all along who is loving, compassionate, merciful, just, forgiving; a God who has always been a safe place for me to bring my failures and successes, my sadness and happiness.

In reading Psalm 32, I am struck by the emphasis on happiness and rejoicing, especially as it relates to repentance. Many gay people have a bad relationship with “sin” or “repentance” as it was taught to us in our spiritual traditions (shout out to those that grew up in healthier environments). My intention is not to enter into the complexities of theology and doctrine in this short devotional, but instead to focus on the joy of God's forgiveness, and that ultimately His desire is for our joy and health.

Further striking to me is the emphasis on the positive impact on the physical body. Verses 3-4 of Psalm 32 explain what it feels like when the Psalmist “kept silence” – wasting away, groaning all day, heavy, with dried up strength.

In contrast, verse 2 says “Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” Similar to this Psalm, the Gospel reminds us that our salvation does not come to us through our own effort or from our own striving but it is imputed to us, a free gift received that ultimately results in our joy! We are invited to show up before God, bringing all that we have and all that we are. God chooses to pursue us with that invitation over and over, just like the good shepherd leaving the 99 to find and rejoice over the one. I'm thankful that the invitation to show up is unconditional and consistent.

This Psalm on its own encapsulates Lent so well. It is a call for us to bring our whole selves in honesty and integrity to God, simply before Him, knowing our humanity, looking forward for that coming resurrection Sunday. In this case, I don't think we are cheating by knowing the whole story. In fact, the point is that we do know the story and know how it ends.

We know that our period of grief, deceit, transgression, silence, distress, does not have to be permanent. We can take this time to honestly bring ourselves before God so that we can live in full vitality of strength, joy, and expectation for the life to come.

Contributor: [David Mwaura](#)

Psalms 121:1-2 “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth”.

My grand father used to tell me that in old days they believed God stayed in Mt. Kenya, this is a mountain in the central part of Kenya. they would offer sacrifices facing Mt. Kenya and God would answer them with rain and a bumper harvest. There were special trees that they considered sacred and they would cleanse themselves before coming close to them. They had such a strong faith in their God and even today some Kikuyu elders still go to Mt. Kenya to pray. But I thank the psalmist today for reminding us that we do not have to make a journey to go and seek God because He is universal.

In the opening verses of this psalm, the psalmist asks the question of where his help will come from and then answers with hesitation that it will come from the Lord the creator of heaven and earth. I love this psalm because it portrays this wonderful image of the Lord watching over us at all time. He will neither slumber nor sleep and will shield us at all times. I love the part “the one who watches over us”. The way a parent watches her/his toddler so as not to stumble and even if they stumble, they are there to hold them. This is beautiful.

This is a blessed assurance, to know that God is my keeper. Why should I be afraid? I know this word sounds alien to many Lgbtq+ persons in Kenya because they live in constant fear. I will encourage each of us to know that we are never alone, that the Lord is watching over us at all times. The Lord shall preserve us. Unlike our fore fathers, we do not need to go to the mountains to look for help. Our help is in the Lord almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

All we need to do is to trust Him and obey His commands. In this season as we think of the coming of the Holy Spirit, the one Jesus promised before he returned to his father in heaven, we are reminded afresh of Gods continued presence with us. Let’s us be in this comfort zone because we know that our God is always watching us.

Isaiah 51: 3 “I will show compassion to Jerusalem, to all who live in her ruins. Though her land is a desert, I will make it a garden, like the garden I planted in Eden. Joy and gladness will be there, and songs of praise and thanks to me”. (GNB)

We know Abraham as our Father of Faith; in his old age he was blessed by God with many descendants. Today we emulate his faith and trust in God. let us believe the words in Isaiah 3; that God will revive us, to them that are still struggling with reconciling their faith and their sexuality, our God will restore us, the joy of salvation will be upon us and our lives will be restored. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2

Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

These days fear is everywhere, the Lgbtq+ community in Kenya does not feel safe at all. They do not know who to trust or even call a friend. there have been so many betrayals in and outside our community. Even so, Gods word is filled with scripture telling us “Do not fear”. But how are we

supposed to achieve such a tall order while living in a homophobic country? it is only by trusting God and knowing that His promises are yes and Amen. God is our friend, our protector and above all our redeemer.

Amen and Amen.

Friday, March 3, 2023

Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31

Contributor: Collins Bulima

Psalms 121

This chapter is probably one of the most therapeutic in the Bible. God is reassuring about His love and care for us at all times. The scripture radiates so much positive energy and total reason why everyone should feel secure in their lives. Love is the greatest commandment. Love wins in all situations. Since creation, the universe revolves significantly around love.

However, this love is not for the lazy, mediocre, and complacent. We see in verse one about lifting eyes up to the mountains for help. We are presented with a scenario where a believer seeks help because they have a challenge that they cannot face alone. Therefore, Christians are called upon to not only just sit and wait upon the Lord, but to seek him in prayer and faith. In the subsequent verses, the Lord outlines how He will always watch over us and protect us from harm.

Most of LGBTQ Christians in Kenya conduct their daily lives oblivious of the knowledge that a Christian ought to keep looking up to the Lord for his love, care and protection. The existence of many challenges makes them think that the Lord has abandoned them, or is somehow punishing them. This chapter serves as a reminder of God's unbiased love and care for us.

Micah 7:18-20

When I read this scripture I was a maelstrom of emotions and mixed feelings. It talks about God being second to none in His endeavor to pardon and forgive our sins through his mercy and faithfulness. I got such feelings and emotions because of how people categorize sins and perceived sins especially in my country, Kenya.

It is like there are better sins or lesser sins and gross sins. The society has put sins in a stratum where they attach a value and graduate sins based on their self-serving perceptions.

This scripture does not in any way categorize sins neither does it discriminate forgiveness. We are told that God does not stay angry infinitely; rather He shows mercy and pardons our sins. We are called upon to ask for forgiveness from God no matter how extreme we may feel the sins are. Additionally as LGBTQ Christians we need to emulate God's nature of not retaining anger. We must not allow ourselves to harbor grudges against each other.

Romans 3:21-31

We are reminded about the righteousness of God through faith. The nexus in the three scriptures is God's unselective love, mercy to all who believe. This particular scripture gives precedence to faith over law but not to demean the law, rather to supplement it. It frowns upon discrimination that is occasioned by the perception that some are better than others like the case of the Jews and the Gentiles. Equity in sin and perceived sin is actualized by the assertion that all has sinned and fell short of the glory of God. It is therefore necessary to uphold the law that requires faith.

We see that the sole application of the law without righteousness occasions pride and looking down upon others. God is for all of us. The society has failed to include righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. This selective application has seen the society treat the LGBTQ as unfit. The ripple effects are dire where both the accusers and the accused drift further from God. The LGBTQ is left to suffer from low esteem thinking that their purpose is inferior to those of the accusers. The law that includes righteousness through faith needs to be upheld.

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

Contributor: [Jemima Mugo](#)

Psalms 121, Isaiah 51:4-8, Luke 7:1-10

The book of psalms gives us hope and emphasis on God's watchful eye on us, He looks at us with love and care. This invites us LGBTQ+ Christians to always consider the source of our help. In verses 3 we see how our God is committed to help us, we are told in this verse that he doesn't sleep for us to be safe. Speaking on how God helps us is one thing all together but do we believe in this as Christians we should have no doubt on this because it is clear that God is the source of every good thing we have and so praise be His name.

When we pray, we are assured of God walking with us everywhere we go, our maker who created heaven and earth journeys with us as our help. He will never let our foot slip; we are always protected by God. He loves us and cares for us always.

Isaiah 51:4 "Listen to me, my people, listen to what I say; I give my teachings to the nations; my laws will bring them light.

The gospel of Christ shall be preached to all nations. There is no salvation without righteousness. The soul shall, as to this world, vanish like smoke, and the body be thrown away like a worn-out garment. But those whose happiness is in Christ's righteousness and salvation, will have the comfort of it when time and days shall be no more. Jesus is the light of the world.

Luke 7:1-10

The centurion's faith is regarded as the greatest faith, to us who want to center our lives in Christ need to pray that we may have this kind of faith. A powerful man reached out to Christ to ask for help, he was not embarrassed to ask God for help. God loves to hear us pray. The centurion was not reaching out to God because of his needs, he was concerned about his servant who was sick. This teaches us that we can be intercessors not only for those close to us, but also our neighbors and even our country. The centurion had built a synagogue, the support we give for God's work makes us gain favor with the people around us. But the centurion knew he was not worthy before the Lord which shows humility, but he believed that through the word of Jesus, his servant will be healed. We are to be people who put their trust in Jesus's word for man does not live by bread alone but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Let's trust on the promises of God.

This story teaches us that, the greatness of someone's faith is not determined by their spiritual privileges, by their background, or ethnicity, it is determined by their actual faith. This assures me that, LGBTQ+ faith pleases God and we can by God's power trust God and great things happen for the glory of God.

Our Lord Jesus came to set us free from the tyranny of fear, sinful pride and rebellion.

Dear God, we are under your mercy. Take our hearts captive and set us free to serve you. Help us to trust you more. Let the light of Christ lead us in everything we do. In Jesus' mighty name we pray.

Amen

Contributor: [Adrian Slonaker](#)

Genesis 12:1-4a The Call of Abram

When I was a kid, Dad frequently talked about when he'd turn "forty-four"; perhaps the particular alliteration of this number caught his attention. He's a kind, intelligent, responsible, organized and generous man. But when he reached forty-four, my omnivorous father was also all about "early to bed, early to rise," "yard work on weekends," "the same house decade after decade," "mostly conservative clothing," and "work from nine-to-five." Fabulous, but not for me, a pescetarian, freelance language professional in tie-dye who changes residences relatively often, refuses the dream of home ownership (and yard work), is a confirmed night-owl, and tends to thrive on being scatter-brained.

Shortly before my own forty-fourth birthday, I had an interesting conversation with my mother during which I insecurely compared myself to Dad at the same age. As much as she loves and respects him, she replied: "Dad has always been like that, even in his twenties. That's the kind of person he's wanted to be. You don't have to do that. You have to be the kind of person you want to be." Well then, case closed!

In Genesis 12:1-4a, God encourages Abram (later Abraham, as in the Abraham, one of the most prominent patriarchs in the Bible!) to pack up and pick up his life, leave behind his community and his country, and set out for an unseen destination with the vague goal of being "great." Brave? Yes. Practical? Perhaps not.

Moreover, Abram is not an idealistic teenager or young adult. He's seventy-five years old! Starting over in such a radically new direction can be scary and overwhelming at any age, but at seventy-five, when society often advocates a mellow retirement, a project such as Abram's seems incredible.

And it is. Abram is an incredible figure, and we can learn from him that we don't have to be bound by what society prescribes for a particular age. I celebrated my fiftieth birthday by drinking bubble tea. Also at fifty, I stripped down at a nude beach for the first time. I spent the summer on Vancouver Island, across the country from my home in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, experienced forest bathing, and embraced an exercise plan; I now work out more than I did in my thirties. I still love bubblegum pop music, chocolate, diet cherry cola, Halloween and cartoons.

As a queer person, I'm still as thrilled, mystified and sometimes confused by sex and sexuality as I was in my twenties. Back then, I shied away from labels that pigeonholed me as "this or that." I still do. I dig what I dig, even if it isn't consistent. I accept that.

I refuse to see life as a single summit followed by an inevitable roll at middle-age towards stodginess and decrepitude. Instead, I view a vast range of peaks, valleys and more peaks that can last a hopefully very long lifetime.

God promises Abram "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse" (Genesis 12:3 [NIV]). Indeed, God reassures Abram that He will be Abram's silent partner. Abram is never alone. We may not be Abram or his wife Sarai (later Sarah), but I believe that, at any age, if we

trust in God and let Him guide us, He can lead us to beautiful knowledge, experiences and achievements we may not have believed feasible or even possible.

Have a blessed Lent! I plan to end the season by wearing a newly purchased bright pastel tie-dye t-shirt featuring a cheerful bunny because that's the kind of fifty-something I choose to be!

Contributor: [Sakwa Josama](#)

Psalms 128, numbers 21:4-9, Hebrews 3:1-6

I am a Kenyan youth under the umbrella of rainbow brothers and sisters. Most of the time I hated my self due to how people take and speak of me because of who I am, I find my self rejected.

But by meeting people of my kind who love God I feel encouraged and powered to serve the living God.

Despite my sexuality, I know we are all created by God with a purpose.

I have to spread the word of God, the love of God and tell the world of how he is doing to those who loves and obey Him.

Hebrews 3:1-6

To the brothers and sisters we are all called by God to think of Jesus Christ who was sent to be the master mind of our faith.

Just like Moses, Jesus was faithful and obedient to His father and we should also be like Jesus.

We should be trustworthy and faithful to the work of God without fear so as to fulfill the reason to why God has selected us to be his spokespersons.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13

Contributor: [Dorcas Kiki](#)

Psalms 128, Isaiah 65: 17-25, Romans 4:6-13

One day as I was relaxing under a mango tree after a hard day's work. This day I was lucky I had gotten casual work in a construction site and was offered a chance as long as I work harder than the men there.

I was desperate and I needed money so I didn't have a choice but to take the challenge. By the grace of God, I managed to work for the 10 hours, I was so exhausted that I decided to take a nap before going back home.

I was woken from my dreamland by a tap on my shoulder. A group of Jehovah witness had come to spread the gospel to me. what a day!

But I thought to myself, I could do with company and they sat down on the grass.

They talked about this new Jerusalem so passionately that I just wanted to sleep and wake up there. But I knew this just can't happen because and just like Christ I must endure all the temptations, tribulations till the end.

I am encouraged to know that, in this journey, I am not alone because Christ is with me and there are blessings that flow when we obey the Lord.

Psalms 128:1 "Happy are those who obey the Lord, who live by his commands".

Every day I wake up in the morning, I have a reason to thank God for the gift of life. I thank God for the good health that I will wake up and go hustle, having a meal is its self a blessing.

Having joy and love is a sign of Gods gentle blessings towards me. even when I go through storms, heartache and pain, I am encouraged to know that God will take me through the grief.

Let's pray. Thank you for all you do and have done for me. I am in awe of you and your majesty.

I do fear your power over all things, and that same fear comforts me. Thank you for the security of being in your loving arms. Thank you for bringing to me to this place today where I can shut out the world and just breathe in your Spirit ever deeper.

Watch over those whom I love, especially my olive branches, and bring them to a moment like this, wowed by you.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Isaiah 65:17 The Lord says, "I am making a new earth and new heavens. The events of the past will be completely forgotten.

This is the transformation that occurs when we give our lives to Christ, it doesn't matter what we had done in the past. It is completely forgotten and we are given a new lease of life, there is so much joy and happiness that comes to your heart and you feel complete. It is not because of anything you have done but because God has accepted you as righteous.

Romans 4 emphasize on this, that happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven. I beg to differ

with the Christians who tells me that I cannot be queer and born again. I have already confessed my sins and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and savior.

Abraham was blessed because he believed what God promised him and because of that he was accepted as righteous.

Thank you Jesus because through you, I will be called blessed. Amen

Contributor: [Cynthia Vacca Davis](#)

I have been thinking a lot lately about in-between places--tight, nebulous, often overlooked spaces that no one seeks out but where so many of us end up: between jobs, between choices, between goodbye and hello.

Between space can be difficult to appreciate, particularly when, like so many of my LGBTQIA+ siblings, to simply exist is often to be marginalized; omitted from the official text and scribbled into the in the margins, where there's no ground to be lost without slipping out of the narrative entirely.

The Lenten season is, by definition, an in-between season. Perhaps nowhere is one plunged more definitively into the 40-day stretch between Fat Tuesday and Easter Sunday than in New Orleans. When the clock strikes midnight on Mardi Gras, police sweep Bourbon Street into silence, signaling an end to the revelry and the beginning of a calm that washes over the city.

The difference between Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday is stark—something I found unsettling when I first experienced it.

Several years ago, I was browsing the Frenchman Street art market on Ash Wednesday when I mentioned the eerie silence to one of the artisans. “Oh, Ash Wednesday is my favorite day of the year,” she said. Factoring in the holidays, the city's been at fever pitch for months, she noted. She welcomed the calm, the peace, the space for contemplation. What was depressing to me was a balm to her soul.

Perhaps this conversation was the initial seed that later germinated into an appreciation, yea, even a fascination with the mysterious terrain of the in-between. And, perhaps it is this growing understanding of the importance of “between” spaces that allows me to see between-ness as the driving theme in today's scripture passages: between actions and blessings in Psalms, between condemnation and deliverance in Ezekiel, and in John, between shame and restoration.

There's transformative power in the space between where we were and where we land. What happens in those moments, days, or years molds us into who we need to be next. There's an energy that thrums and pulsates just below the surface. Ideas, desires, and truths that we're surprised to find percolating. The sound of our own voice—or is God's?—finally audible in the stillness. If we listen, we can find it again, like coins and baubles between the couch cushions, misplaced, but not truly lost.

I think Lent is built into our liturgical calendar as an invitation to sit for a season in the mysterious, undervalued place between places. Perhaps engaging in Lent as a discipline makes this no man's land feel less foreign, a gift to future versions of ourselves who may need to make a temporary home in undefined territory.

The distance between our efforts and rewards, our mistakes and their righting, our failings and our redemption is nothing more or less than the story of our journey forward—the miles between crumbled bedrock that can no longer support us and the firm ground that awaits just down the road.

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23

Contributor: [Jared Dixon](#)

Colossians 1: 15-23

Growing up as a gay man, I had heard my fair share of messages condemning gay people. One event has remained embedded in my psyche to this day:

The pastor, a tall, stately man wearing a black suit marched to the pulpit and declared his disdain for homosexuals, stating that right to repent is the only right they should have.

I was sitting in a plush maroon seat in a tiny storefront church located in Northeast Washington, D.C., about twenty minutes from my home in Maryland. This pastor's denouncement of homosexuality kicked off my summer vacation in 2001, and although I had no idea at the time, would become the first in a long line of sermons condemning homosexuality that I would internalize: Gays are going to hell; homosexuality is the worst sin in the eyes of God.

Like so many people in the LGBTQ+ community who were raised in religiously oppressive environments, I spent my adolescence desperately clinging to promises of restoration and change. I just needed to pray harder, to fast, to relinquish everything that did not glorify God. Despite praying and fasting and relinquishing all worldly things, my sexuality did not change, and I found myself resenting God, questioning the all-consuming power I was taught to believe He had. I spent my late-teens and early twenties going through the motions, attending church but feeling a numbness toward songs and sermons and prayers that emphasized God's love for me. I had internalized a toxic theology that always reinforced God's disdain toward homosexuality. Therefore, God's love did not apply to people like me.

After years of therapy and an independent study of the Bible, I have now been able to reconcile my sexuality with my faith, and I have seen the ways in which I was alienating myself from God.

Verse twenty-one in the first chapter of Colossians beautifully and painfully describes how I was alienating myself from God through my prayers and supplications to change my sexuality.

I had failed to recognize that I was created in God's image as the sixteenth verse cements. I now realize that asking God to change me was actively opposing His creation, and that the pastors and deacons who decried the evils of homosexuality were not speaking on behalf of God. Through this revelation, I was able to understand that the evil behavior that alienated me from God was never homosexuality, it was homophobia both internalized and projected onto me by those who had presented their own interpretation of scripture as the divine voice of God. I had erroneously believed that my salvation would be ruined if I embraced my sexuality.

Rebuilding my relationship with God has been one of the hardest, yet most rewarding endeavors I have ever undertaken. Though I lost a lot of people I cared about along the way, I gained an unshakeable foundation upon which I rebuilt my life as a gay Christian.

Without a shadow of doubt, I know that Jesus' death on the cross also made me holy in God's sight, that Christ's love was not exclusive to just cisgendered heterosexuals, but inclusive to all of God's creation, LGBTQ+ people included.

Friday, March 10, 2023

Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22

Contributor: [Jacklin Wambui](#)

Psalm 95:1 “come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! (GNB)

As we begin to read through this psalm, we are being called to worship. Look at how many times in these verses we are called to come and worship the Lord. But why is God worthy of such worship? the psalmist gives us many reasons. First of all, God is the creator and sustainer of all life. He is the king above all gods. God is the supreme power; He controls the order of all things. He is worthy of our praise and worship. This almighty and powerful God who created us also cares for us and longs to look after us.

Exodus 16:9 Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole community to come and stand before the LORD, because he has heard their complaints”. (GNB)

This book of Exodus paint to us a picture of a God who hears our prayers, a God who provides in unexpected situations. Many times, we have found ourselves in a desert, a desert is a place of lack where there is no water, no food and the sun is scorching. The children of Israel found themselves in this desert, they witnessed the wonders of the Almighty God. they were still doubting when Moses told them to just take enough for the day, whoever took more the following day it was full of worms. This takes me to the Lord’s prayer. “Give us our daily bread”. This means we should be contented with what God is providing for us because He knows our needs.

The same God who was with Moses in the wilderness, is the same God we are serving today.

There is a time I used to experience this dryness in my life. I was born in a very rural setting, according to me, I was the only queer person in that village. It has taken me 10 years to find a fellowship for my fellow Lgbtq+ persons. I feel refreshed and quenched because I had this longing to meet my fellow Lgbtq+ Christians. God heard my prayer that I now feel complete, my desert days are over.

Ephesians 2:12-13 “At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to Gods chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on Gods promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God. but now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (GNB)

I never knew that I can be a queer and a Christian. I was brought up in the Anglican faith and I grew up knowing God hates people like me. as much I tried to convince myself that I was a Christian, my sexuality pulled me back into a cocoon. I was desperate for Salvation and deliverance. I was looking for someone to affirm me that I am still a Christian. God answered my prayers by connecting me to a local fellowship. It is a shame that there are still differences when we are referring to the body of Christ. Some feel more entitled than others, I am not surprised when I say I am a lesbian Christian and am pushed back with “no! you can’t be, God hates sin.” I don’t get angry by these remarks anymore, I know I was transformed by the blood of Jesus the moment I confessed my sins.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for your loving care over us and ask that you help us not only to listen for your word but also, as best as we can, to faithfully obey it and share your love with all people. In Jesus name. Amen.

Contributor: Phil Duncan Kiiru

Throughout history homosexuality has been depicted as a taboo or demonic acts and many people throughout the world especially Africa have suffered discrimination, killings and even death at some point. I since childhood knew what I was “gay”, but I did not get the chance to speak out to what I felt since my family and the society condemned this act as it was against the true nature of life.

I questioned both my life and existence and wished I was dead. I was depressed throughout my life and became so introverted to a point never got the chance to enjoy my childhood days, never got opportunity to treasure any memories of my childhood.

I hated being a Christian as I was taught that Sodom and Gomorrah were erased from existence because of homosexuality, but that was not the whole reason that God took down the whole city. I later learnt that many Christians mainly focused on the part of gayism and ignore the whole reason as to why the city was destroyed which was because of the sinful acts but not really sexuality.

Eventually hope arose as people fought for homosexuality not being a crime. People fought for what they believed was right. Black people demanded for equal rights and freedom was bestowed upon them since religion also depicted everyone as human and should be loved and treated fairly amongst us.

Gays and Lesbians have demanded the same rights, prayed to our Almighty Jehovah and through God’s grace, the same manna that God gave upon the Israelites for them and the generations to come sustained them, according to Exodus 16:33-34, now many countries throughout the world have accepted the right to love the same gender and the generations to come will enjoy the fruits of our current generation.

Homosexuality has always been judged by the society, but it is okay not to judge themselves as they practice prostitution, abortion, suicide, child trafficking, drugs abuse and many more negative inhuman crimes but it is okay to judge the gay people. It is sad for what evil and shallow minded the world is.

According to John 4:1-26 it is clearly seen that Jesus speak to the Samaritan woman without any fear or anger (the Jews and the Samaritans do not associate) and this depicts what our society should do and coexist with each other without judging others by their sexuality, color or even gender.

We owe to our Lord for the gift of life that was bestowed upon human beings and all the glory will forever reign upon His name. As of today, the LGBTQ people can praise the Lord without fear, sing His glorious name with thanksgiving in our hearts.

We as the gay people will be proud for who we are and forever be grateful to our Lord, according to Psalms 95:3,” For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.” He created us with a purpose and a reason, and we should accept who we are without any fear and worship Him.

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Contributor: [Rev. Yadi Martinez-Reyna](#)

I am a borderlander, a queer Pastor born and raised in the boarder town of Brownsville and Matamoros Mexico. From a very young age I was raised as a conservative evangelical Christian. I love helping people and going on mission until I grew older and church no longer made sense.

As I grew older I realized that the church had a list of sins to watch out for and a complex set of guidelines for those we helped. As members of the church, and depending on your gender there were also rules on how to dress, wear your hair, and how to behave. If you were born a woman your job was to listen, ask for clarification but never to question your elders.

On my last year of High School I was told that I was rebelling because I was asking too many questions. In particular I got in trouble for seeking in depth biblical conversations about our process of helping people. It made no sense to me that grace and forgiveness was given only to those who were deserving. Then based on those assumptions we would deny people aid, food, and clothing.

It was during this same time that my mother became critically ill and was hospitalized. My pastor would quote every Bible verse on healing and would tell me to focus on seeking God's favor. I wanted to believe in God's healing power and I pray day and night for my mother to be heal, but she died after eleven months in intensive care. The church elders had warned that my rebellious spirit would get me in trouble. They had warned that I would lose favor in God's eyes and the results were evident, I had lost my mother.

All of those memories created deep wounds and scars that took my inner peace, my faith, and my hope in a benevolent God.

The book of Romans in Chapter 5 talks about being justified by faith, and that regardless if we were deserving or not we had these promises of grace, love, and forgiveness. As I grew older I realized that I did not have the power to cause my mother to suffer or to die even if I was a rebellious child. God's favor, blessings, grace, and love had nothing to do with earning favor. Because even if one can be labeled a sinner, weak in spirit, or any other label that society or an institution puts upon us, God liberates us from them. Even if we are wounded as I was by the church, the love of Jesus is a balm of healing upon realizing that we are are loved beyond our imagination.

Now, I'm reconciled and I invite those who have been wounded by the church, or by life in general to see the text through a new lens. Through Jesus' death whatever took our smile, our peace, our hope, our joy was paid for and erased with no questions asked. If we have suffered, it has produced endurance. That endurance, produced character. That character, produced hope. And that hope is the one that would not disappoint us.

Liberation is found once we realize God's love had been poured into us regardless of anything we have done, will do, or can do. We were given a gift, with no strings attached. We do not have to earn God's favor, we have it. Through Christ we have been given a new life, a new character born to hope, given grace, blessings, and love regardless of who thinks we deserve them. God said it's done, it's yours - end of story!

Contributor: [Monicah Wambui](#)

Psalms 81:9 -10 you must never worship another god. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, open your mouth, and I will feed you. (GNB)

I will always thank my mother for raising me as a Christian.

It was a crime in our home to fail to attend Sunday school. I remember my big brother pretending to be sick and my mum said “Jesus is waiting for you at the Sunday school door to heal you, if you stay here you will die.”

And my brother sprinted to church and in his innocence to meet Jesus. He came back home happy that he is healed. I thank God today my brother is a pastor.

My mother taught us to fear and obey God and for this one thing I will forever treasure her. We had a fall out with my mother when I was outed as a lesbian, she was mad at me because I had ashamed her bringing me up as good Christian.

She chose the society and rejected me as her child. She is yet to accept me back but it is my hope that one day before we depart physically from each other we will reconcile because I miss her too much.

In Psalm 81, I read it from a very personal view. I see God talking to me as a parent would talk to his/her children. God wants us to be obedient to Him so he could protect us from all evil.

God knows our hearts and we cannot fool God; he knows when we are worshiping other gods. To us who truly loves God, we will be fed with the finest of foods that would satisfy us. How I pray that I may possess true faith in God like our father Abraham.

The story in Genesis 24 shows us how we can completely put our trust in God. Abraham believed God when he was told that all the families of the earth would be blessed through Isaac’s descendants. Abraham was old and he trusted his servant to go out and look for a wife ideal for Isaac. He knew what his son needed in a wife, he needed to have the covenant of eternal marriage. the beautiful side of this story is, the servant prayed to God for direction, he prayed to God for a sign and God led him to Rebecca. This humbles me and reminds me that I should always let God be my guide in each an every step I take because God is always ready to guide us.

Abraham believed that God was willing and able to keep his promises. We are being called today to just believe. Gods love and faithfulness extends to new generations. Let us all be encouraged that who was is still the same today and will remain so forever.

In 2nd John1, we are commanded to love and to obey Gods commands. Let us walk in truth and love for one another.

I thank God for this opportunity we have been given by Parity Ministries, it so encouraging to know that there are still Christians that has the true love of Christ. As Lgbtq+ Christians in the rural Kenya, we feel seen and appreciated.

Dear God, give us a clean heart that only loves you. Help us to be instruments that only sing your praises.

Amen.

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Contributor: [Jeremy Emmert](#)

Friends, may I tap into the power of group confession with you?

A single verse from today's readings has quickened this confession. Psalm 81:6 states, "I removed the burden from their shoulders." Re-writing the passage using the general dictionary definition of the word burden reads like this, "I removed the heavy load from their shoulders.

I have been carrying a heavy load for far too long.

I want this devotional to be a visible and lasting confession among friends and before God that I am ready to allow the great physician to remove the burden from my shoulders.

I liken the act of confession to the ultimate proverbial burn pile. For me, confession is not just a series of words, thoughts, or tears. Confession is a red-hot consuming act that God uses to free me from besetting burdens.

The burden I want to name is fear. I see a thread of fear running from childhood through adulthood. I see fear to my right and fear to my left.

As a young boy I was terrified someone would find out I was gay. That fear of being found out over thirty years ago became the fear to take bold risks today.

And that is precisely the problem with spiritually unaddressed fear. It can have tentacles that both we are aware of and tentacles we are unaware of.

Fear is also metastatic in nature. Fear easily metastases into doubt. What if I am making a big deal of nothing? Isn't it ungrateful to focus on fear when there are so many bigger issues in the world? Is a devotional really the right place for this? Fear begets more fear.

What if my family comes across this? They don't support me being gay. What will they think? Will they be disappointed?

I think that last point about my family is why a devotional is the perfect place for a confession about fear. I would hope that by reading this my family would see that we don't have to hold the same theology about sexuality to love each other excellently. The same applies to me and you the reader.

We all have burdens that need lifted. No matter where we are physically in the world, no matter where we are theologically, and no matter where we are emotionally, we can all stand together before God and tap into the healing power of confession.

I conclude this devotional with a prayer for us all:

"God lift my heavy burdens of fear. Destroy its tentacles. God lift the heavy burdens of each reader. Help them find the right form for them to confess boldly. Untangle the tentacles of the obstacles they face. Jesus, teach us to walk with an easy yoke and light burden as you spoke about in Matthew 11:30.

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39

Contributor: [Boniface Waweru](#)

When I read this book of Psalms 81, I feel good because one of the things I like doing is praising my creator, my loving Father! God almighty. Worshipping God is a thing I like so much that nothing can separate me with.

Being in rural area most of the time I worshipped while doing other activities because nobody wanted to be associated with me for being gay. This good God sent His angels one day and I got a fellowship led by pastor Megan who have tried her best to bring Lgbtq+ persons in the rural areas together for a fellowship.

We find it safe and lovely to worship together as a community because each one of us understands what we are and the fact we are gay does not mean God does not love us, thus making us praise Him. He is God our savior, by his grace we are saved from all homophobic attacks.

Today on 11th January I woke up to a shock when I read from a twitter handle of an MP called Mohammed Ali calling for arrest of al Lgbtq+ persons. "Let us not waste time discussing LQBTQ or whatever name they call it. It's illegal, God doesn't like it and we should not entertain it. On this one democracy my foot! Jail them." This is a leader chosen to lead people and he is so homophobic. When a member of the Lgbtq+ dies, our society display its level of homophobia in the social media. They say we deserve to die but let us continue praising this good God because he remains our strength.

The death of our own Edwin Chiloba has been negatively published, he was a model and an Lgbtq+ advocate who lived his life openly as a gay man.

His parents knew their child was a Christian, the Lgbtq+ community knew Chiloba as a worshiper and thus many called him pastor. But the society is saying you can not be gay and Christian, this is the world we are living in. sometimes I try to imagine if Jesus was here with us today, what would he have said about the death of Chiloba?

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous Judgment (KJV)

JEREMIAH 2;4-13

Israel became worthless as the false gods that the nation worship, we see God calling on the heavens to witness this sad state of affairs in which the Israel forgot about their God and started worshiping idols.

This reminds about a neighbor we had long time back in the village. They were blessed with a good family and everyone admired them. In a span of one year, their lives changed completely and they became untouchables because of the wealth they accumulated in a short time. They acquired a big car and their kids were taken to good schools but after two years things started falling apart in the family. Their kids started to die after just a short illness and in a span of 5 years we had buried their 4 children. When the mother realized what was going on, she called a pastor and confessed that his husband had been recruited in a cult in order to get riches. Even before the pastor left the compound, their house caught fire and nothing was saved from the inferno, the same night as the husband was driving home, he was involved in an accident and died.

This true story encourages me to trust only God almighty, in His own time He will remember you and give you all that your heart desires.

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32

Contributor: [Faith Mbogo](#)

Psalms 23 is one of the best-known portions in the entire bible. I remember I was a champion in reciting it in my mother tongue, whenever there was an important guest in our school, I was always prepared to recite it.

I did not have the deeper meaning I have now but the congregation used to applaud me for being so fluent in it. I just loved how the words flowed through but now as an adult I embrace it. I take it more personal than King David. I have this plaque in my room, every time I look at it, I feel the presence of God in my life.

The Lord is my shepherd, yes! Jesus the lamb of God is my shepherd. What can I lack when I have Jesus?

He gives me strength and guide me in the paths of righteousness. I am just human, without the Spirit of God in me I can go astray but having Jesus lead my way, I know I am strong.

As we begin this Lent season, may the Spirit of God lead us. Let this psalm become our daily companion in our personal walk.

Knowing that we have a good shepherd, we have nothing to fear, no matter how deep the darkness can be. This good shepherd knows we have enemies and that is why he prepares a table for us in front of them, we are respected because this good shepherd loves us so much and he can not let us be ashamed. Because of all the beauty in this Psalm, I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

1 Samuel 15:10-21

The downfall of king Saul reminds me that, you should not forget where you came from. Saul was chosen by God to be the king of Israel but along the way pride overcame him. He became disobedient to God and that's why he was destroyed. The story of Saul reminds me of our local church back in the village.

The church was started from a very humble ground, it was the first Pentecostal church in our village. It was started by 3 people in someone's compound. By the grace of God, it grew day by day, a neighbor offered them a portion of land to build a church where they built a semi-permanent church. Through the church leadership they built a big permanent church and the congregants number increased. But one of the founding members became greedy, he wanted to claim ownership of the church and plan for all the finances. One day during a church service as he made the church announcements he said "this church has come far; I have worked so hard for this church to be where it is. If at all you do not feel comfortable here, just go somewhere else because you are disturbing us."

His statement shocked many and one by one people started moving from that church, after six months he was left with his wife and kids. He started reaching out to people but it was too late, he had no option but to close the church. one glorious church was brought down by the pride and arrogance of one greedy leader. Our God loves our obedience than any sacrifice we can offer to Him.

Ephesians 4:25-32

May God help and guide us to live in righteousness and holiness as we are guided in this chapter. Let us be kind to one another, loving one another, forgiving just as Christ has forgiven us.

Friday, March 17, 2023

Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9

Contributor: [Lisa Whitesell](#)

In May of 2017 I began a grand adventure.

In a freak accident I fell in my kitchen and broke multiple bones in both legs and shattered my right ankle. I was unconscious on the floor alone for about three hours until my **partner came home** from work and found me blood-spattered and unable to sit or stand. Over the next weeks and months of my life following ankle reconstruction surgery, casts, and tons of physical and occupational therapy I re-learned everything about how to walk again. This was an abrupt and unexpected life altering event.

While spending 12 weeks unable to stand or walk I was confined to a rented hospital bed in my living room 24 hours a day. A steady stream of physical therapists, occupational therapists, and nurses were my life-line to regaining any sort of mobility. Re-learning to stand and walk as my bones healed was a challenge for my mind and my body. It seemed like I confronted enormous risks doing the most basic physical movements like changing clothes or transferring to a bedside commode. My independence was stripped away. Every crumb of food, every drop of water and all of my round-the-clock safety and care was beyond my control.

I remember my mind flexing like a muscle as I trained myself to gorge on a feast of my blessings. I swiftly learned to focus on the tiniest of positive aspects of existence and to be emphatically grateful for each moment embracing the joy I felt. I recited my blessings. I wrote them down each day in a journal. I tried to splash gratitude on every caregiver and visitor that would come to see my progress. Did I have fear? You bet I did. Would I ever walk again? Would I be able to live an independent life? How would I cope with the pain of it all? Would my partner grow tired of tending to my handicapped body? Yes. I had fear. I prayed and asked G_d for a way to move beyond the nagging weakness that tried to swallow my mind. I began to place a relentless whole-hearted focus on all the positive blessings I could find and I did my best to fan them into flame.

In each of these three scripture portions there is a stark reminder of the emptiness of fear and the fullness of love and gratitude. In Psalm 23 “I will fear no evil.”

A simple mirror reflection of those last two words will spell out what one can do with fear. L-I-V-E

O-N. Live on. Move on through fear. I can question the grip of fear. Saul committed the sin of fear but he humbled himself and traded his fear for an opportunity to worship G_d.

1 Samuel 15: 24 says “ I was afraid of the men so I gave in to them.” Fear keeps the human spirit as a hostage. Magnifying the greatness of G_d keeps the human spirit free.

Ephesians 5:6-7 reminds us of the deception of “empty words” and “not to be partners with them”. Fearful words and thoughts keep bodies and minds weakened. A helpful key is given in verse 4 where it says that thanksgiving should replace foolish talk.

As the months of my healing journey rolled by I had numerous opportunities to shed my fears. Prior to my accident I embraced a very quiet and rather closeted life. I held a firm belief that my privacy was primary to all else. My partner felt the same way. We were “old school” closeted never giving our relationship status any public opportunity to polarize people. When I became completely dependent on ambulance drivers, new nurses on every shift and neighbors for all kinds of assistance I had repeated opportunities to tell a more honest version of my living situation. I am certain that one of the most beautiful gifts of my health crisis was the facing of the lifelong fear of rejection. Coming out is a new liberation of the greatness of G_d each time it flows into the world through me.

Later in 2017 my longtime partner and I chose to get married. We made a public legal statement of what was private. We live in a very conservative state where laws are constantly being proposed that attempt to thwart our rights. We are considered by many to be “elderly”. I am 60 and my wife is 73. Fear says this should make us feel vulnerable. Gratitude says we choose to feel venerable.

Prayer for today: G_d of All, The only enemy is fear. Fear causes failure before effort begins. Help me begin all actions with love and gratitude. I want to be the one who loves first. Teach me how to love this world without words. With your Guiding Hand remind me that one painful, broken step is greater than a thousand fearful hesitations.

Contributor: [Edwin Kiragu](#)

Psalms 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need. (Good News Bible).

This is a scripture that lightens me up every time I read it. It gives me hope that whatever I need, my provider who is the Living God has heard and attended to my needs. This verse reassures us that no matter how troubled we are, how poor we feel we are, all our needs are taken care of. Just like how a shepherd takes care of his flock, so does our loving Father. The flock puts all its hope and trust on the shepherd. We as Christians should be like the flock, put all our faith in God and He will provide all that we need.

1 Samuel 15: 32-34

Agag was the King of Amalekites. Amalekites were enemies of the chosen people of God. God through Samuel ordered Saul to spare none but Saul disobeyed God. Samuel executed God's order in verse 33.

We are all chosen by God. No matter the difference in our races, tribes and sexuality, God loves us all. No one has been given any authority by God to execute another because they are different from them. Many queer people have been executed because of being who they are. Because of falling in love and choosing love. Those who execute the people of God should learn from Agag. Sauls in their lives may spare them but God will send Samuel and they will not be spared.

John 1:1-9

This chapter talks about Jesus our savior. He is the light that came to shine on us all. This is one chapter that makes me feel so loved and recognized by God.

As a gay man, there are many times I feel rejected, unwanted and even feel like I am a mistake that happened. Many are the times I have wept to God asking Him why He had to make me different. I remember a time I attended a church service. The vicar who was preaching talked of destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He blamed the LGBTQ community for the problems that were facing the country, from drought, strange diseases and many calamities happening and said that God would destroy the entire queer community. His preaching tore my heart into a million pieces. I felt attacked. I wondered whether I was really created by God. I walked out even before the service ended filled with bitterness towards God and swore to never step into a church ever again. I even contemplated to uninstalling the Bible app from my phone. Just as I was about to, I got a message from these advertising companies and it quoted John 1:3. I read it and I felt rejuvenated. I understood that I was not a mistake and that God created me through His son as nothing was made without him.

Jesus is the light that shines on us all. Being gay does not make me less of a child of God. To all the queer people out there, God loves us. God created us in his own image and likeness. We are created through His son who He loved most. The life we have is from the Word and the Word is God.

Let us allow His light to shine into our lives and we also pray for those who hate us, persecute us and see us like we are the sin to allow the light shine on them and open their eyes and help them see that we are all children of the Word.

Sunday, March 19, 2023

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Contributor: [Zaweria Hunyu](#)

1st Samuel 16:7 But the lord said to him, “pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is. I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.”

God is full of surprises; David was no where in the equation of Samuel and Jesse. He was the youngest son out there taking care of his fathers’ sheep. His big brothers had the posture of a king but God had not chosen any of them. There is nothing we can hid from God. He knows us in and out and that is how He knew David had a clean heart.

From the abundant of the heart the mouth speaks, it is from our hearts where knowledge, decision making, intentionality and compassion reside. The heart is the seat of all that it is the very core of who we are. God looked at the heart of David and from there choose him to be the king. And from the lineage of David, came our savior Jesus Christ.

Today is a good day to search our own hearts, our thoughts, our actions and everything that makes us who we are, so that we can be more faithful to the one who created us. May God clean the mess in our hearts. His grace will always be sufficient to us because through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed from all that would hold us back from our relationship with God. I am encouraged to know that God judges by looking at the hearts of his creation and so all of us are close to Gods heart. This is good news to my fellow Lgbtq+ persons.

Ephesians 5:8-10 You yourselves used to be in the darkness, but since you have become the Lord’s people, you are in the light. So, you must live like people who belong to the light, for it is the light, that brings a rich harvest of every kind of goodness, righteousness, and truth. Try to learn what pleases the Lord. (GNB)

From the story of David, we have learnt that our God is not a respecter of persons. God can choose to use anyone that pleases Him. I feel encouraged to know that God can use me just as gay as I am because he looks into the heart. Just like David’s big brothers, we live in a society that think they are more qualified than us because of our sexual orientation. But our God loves us and accepts us with love. We are children of light. To those who are still struggling with reconciling their sexuality and their faith, this lent let us return our hearts to God in humility and in Faith. There we will find acceptance beyond compare.

We have become the light of the world through Jesus Christ, let us live like people who belong to the light. We are called to trust God in righteousness and truth.

I thank God for our fellowship, this wonderful persons made me change my perspective on how I view things. They are so broken before God in worship, they love God and they are committed to serve. A few are willing to go to bible school just to know God more. If you judge our fellowship based on the fact that we are Lgbtq+, you will miss to see the goodness of our God and the beauty in it.

We are called like Samuel to listen and discern where God is leading us, ready to offer acceptance ourselves to others that we may meet, even when they are not like us or our choice.

Let’s love one another.

Amen.

Contributor: [Daniel Kihara](#)

Psalms 146: 2-3

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help (KJV)

The book of psalms represents our heartfelt praises directed to God for all God has done and does for us. Our utterance of prayers sung and prayed to take our minds off our problems and help us focus on God. Psalms 146 tells me that God is the source of my hope and the reason for my praise. It's sad that we are living in a society where we do not value humanity. We hear news of how a man kills his whole family, where a woman kills her husband and even in our own LGBTQ+ community partners are killing one another.

We are at that point where it is hard even to believe true love exist, that is why this psalm admonishes us not to put our confidence in people, they are human beings and their help is limited. The only hope we have is in our God the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.

Our God is faithful and there is nothing impossible to Him, let us always keep hope alive. LGBTQ+ persons in Kenya lives in fear of what might happen to them the next minute, we know the dangers that are ahead of us even if we remain in the closet.

I had a friend who was raped by people known to him and when he went to the police station to report, the officers were laughing at him. They humiliated him because was a transgender, they laughed at him and with no help they sent him away saying they are not sure if it's a man or a woman they were serving. The beautiful soul returned home and committed suicide.

That is the reason LGBTQ+ persons suffer silently in Kenya and many have lost hope, but today I will insist that we should keep hope alive because psalms 146: 7-9 suggest that God is a God of justice and righteousness and cares for the vulnerable and marginalized. I believe God loves and created us to praise Him.

Isaiah 59:16 "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore, his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him. (KJV)

Justice and righteousness would not come from mankind, so God brought it to us Himself, through the redeemer Jesus Christ. There is no heart that is too far from Christ, if Jesus can save Saul of Tarsus, he can save anyone.

We have friends who their heart seems hard to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior, friends who have been made enemies of Jesus because of their sexuality, we have friends who were brought up as Christians but along the way their faith drifted because the church told them that Jesus hates them.

Let us join hands and pray for them and we shall rejoice together as they come to Christ.

Contributor: [Rev. Dr. Darlene Brewer](#)

Lent is, for me, a time of listening. As we reflect on Jesus' time in the desert, his hunger and his thirst, his anxiety, his journey from death to resurrection, we are invited to listen to God, to others, to ourselves, to the earth.

During Lent we sit with a lot of uncertainty. Jesus' story and his temptation and time in the desert is filled with pain and suffering. And yet, we know it will come to an end. We have the end of the story. God glorifies Jesus and we are redeemed, saved, forgiven. We can let go all our worries, all our hunger and thirst, and find completion. And on some days, we do feel that way!

We see Jesus' whole story and our stories, too, as a foundation of liberation for the world. Jesus inspires us, those who follow him, to believe in the power of being a Risen people. And yet, we cannot minimize the very real challenges of walking in the desert before we get to the tomb.

Psalm 146 talks about the coming of justice, rejoicing in this God of ours, God of Jacob 'who has made heaven and earth, God who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.'

It seems so at hand for the Psalmist. Is justice here now? The psalmist seems to think so. And yet, there are a lot of people who might find they're still wondering and waiting for the release from prison, that food that is promised, that justice that will roll down like a mighty stream, as Isaiah tells us. For our 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities collectively, and for individual people, the desert experience is a lot like life experience sometimes.

Sometimes within the church people's hearts are broken. They are dry with hunger and thirst and we try to minimize their suffering or our own. We are sometimes bare waiting for the resurrections of our lives amidst the deaths and challenges of our stories. Sometimes the most promising thing we can do for someone is to simply listen to them and just be attentive to their suffering. It's sometimes hard to do without trying to mend everything. That is God's work, not ours. But we can attend to suffering and not minimize the pain of our 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples.

I recently had a routine medical procedure at the hospital. As I was waiting so were several others, mostly women. I could feel the anxiety and worry in the room. It was palpable and so normal. I said a little prayer to myself for their suffering and that God would bring them an experience of calm and comfort as they moved forward with their days, and years and lives.

It is my prayer, as Paul says in Colossians, that we pray for the community of the world without ceasing. I hope, especially, that our 2SLBTQQIA+community 'may walk worthy of the Lord'. In this season of Lent, I hold up our 2SLBTQQIA+ communities, women, transgender peoples, and all who are suffering. We recognize your suffering and want to hear your stories. In our faith communities let's make room for honesty, bravery, and safety as people move through their journeys as we all hope one day for the justice to be known and to be felt, like food and water to dry and thirsty souls. May you know your worth before God as you share your stories with our church so that we may all grow in wisdom and understanding in Christ Jesus.

Contributor: [Samuel Thrikwa](#)

Psalms 146:2 “while I live will I praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being”. (KJV)

This Psalms is calling us to praise, not only on Sundays but all the days of my life. Praising God should be our lifestyle. Praising God means that we trust Him no matter what we are going through.

I remember my first day to go to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. I was invited for an interview and I was hopeful that I would get that job. I had alerted my brother that I will be going to Nairobi and I was hoping he would accommodate me before I settled in my new work place.

I was excited as I left the village, I was looking forward to town life where I was sure to meet other gay people as life in the city is diverse. I went for the interview but unfortunately there were other people more qualified than me, when I told my brother that I did not get the job, he gave me transport money to go back to the village.

I was disappointed because I was hoping my brother would have at least accommodate me till I get a job, but he was not willing to host me. My brother had a stable job and I did not expect a no from him. Humbly I went back to the village and learnt that the only sure bet I have in this world is God.

As the psalmist is telling us: “Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help”(Psalms 146:3 KJV)

Isaiah 60:18 “The sound of violence will be heard no more; destruction will not shatter your country again. I will protect and defend you like a wall; you will praise me because I have saved you. (GNB)

When we rebel against God, His wrath can befall us like it happened to Israelites, but our God in his mercies still reach out to them when they sincerely repent. What we have observed in this chapter is that God is slow to anger thus giving us an opportunity for us to repent all our sins. We have obtained mercy through the blood of Jesus on the cross and because of believing He is the Christ we have gained our salvation.

Mathew 9:28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus saith unto them, believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, yea, Lord. (KJV)

Do you believe God is able to change your life? If only you believe great things happen to those who believe. For a long time, I was blind spiritually,

I could not imagine God can save a gay person like me. the devil made me feel that I am very far from the grace of God. but did Jesus longed to heal me, yes! He just wanted me to take a step of faith and walk towards him.

Just like the blind men I never hesitated when I was invited to a Lgbtq+ Christian fellowship, though at first, I just wanted to know how they can be? but at the end of the fellowship my life was completely changed and I said yes to Jesus.

We should not settle in our comfort zone and wait for miracles, lets walk towards Jesus and tell him, yes Lord you are able to restore my life and make me whole again.

Amen

Contributor: [Giacomo Liggera](#)

The Angel and the Little Scroll

Revelation 10:1-3

“Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. 2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion.”

Just like the writer of Revelation, John, throughout our lives we find ourselves confronted with the sublime... both in our mundane lives and our spiritual lives. When John witnessed the angel and bore an audience to a voice from Heaven, he experienced the sublime, a moment and presence so great, it could not be fully grasped by his mind.

While I will in no way try to dissect Kant, there is something to be said about the concept of the sublime: things of such magnitude that it escapes our complete understanding.

I also see the sublime in the people around me. Not just the beautiful stranger but in my family and friends. While I will always love their personalities and quirks, I will never be able to fully understand them... and there is beauty in that as well.

When we picture something that is sublime, most of us think of something epic, such as what John experienced. However, I call you to appreciate the everyday sublime, the mundane; the things all around us that, when you step back to ponder, are so regular but really also so spectacular.

When I think of the sublime, I immediately think of the Rocky Mountains which cradle my apartment, incredible enough to be seen from space and created only by chance as chains of islands converged together millions of years ago. What is sublime to me is the beach at sundown, the experience of gazing off into an endless blue sea enshrouded by colors. There is so much beauty in nature that I call sublime.

I also see the sublime in the people around me. Not just the beautiful stranger but in my family and friends. While I will always love their personalities and quirks, I will never be able to fully understand them... and there is beauty in that as well.

When I am confronted with something new, that I do not yet understand, I try to think about and appreciate it in the mindset of the sublime. I encourage myself to not look at something new with fear or trepidation but with knowledge of the joy and growth trying to comprehend the unknown will bring. For John, although he felt terror in the true presence of angels, he persevered to understand what he was being told.

I call upon you to try to approach the world with this mindset. Greet each new thing as something sublime. Something created beautiful and great. While outside your current comprehension, something with the potential to shift your world and perspective, just as John experienced.

Friday, March 24, 2023

Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19

Contributor: [Ed Moran](#)

As a gay Christian, I have always had a special fondness for Psalm 130. It's also known as the De Profundis prayer, since its opening verse, "Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord" was translated (as Psalm 129) in Jerome's Vulgate as "De profundis clamavi ad te. Domine."

For centuries, those words rose from the lips of the Catholic faithful each evening at seven o'clock, accompanied by the ceremonial tolling of church bells for the souls of the departed. In the Pennsylvania coal regions where I grew up, this penitential psalm was also known as the "miner's prayer" because it evoked an image of fervent pleas ascending heavenward from the depths of the hellish underground beneath our feet. The psalm was dutifully recited at my own grandfather's funeral—he started working in the mines as an eight-year-old breaker boy in the 1890s, only to perish in a mining accident on St Patrick's Day 1942.

Fast forward to another fraught March 17 half a century later when I was arrested—along with more than 200 others—for sitting down in the middle of Fifth Avenue to protest the exclusion of openly queer marchers in New York's St Patrick's Day parade. I knew my "true blue union" grandfather was with me in spirit that morning, the two of us united in solidarity against injustice, whether in the workplace or on a parade route.

Soon after I'd joined Brooklyn's Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1976, the pastor, Dr Knight, mentioned in a sermon that De Profundis was the title given to Oscar Wilde's prison memoir. This took the form of a long letter he'd addressed to his lover Bosie (Lord Alfred Douglas), who'd written a poem to Wilde that ended with the famous lines "I am the Love that dare not speak its name." With faith as my witness, I can declare that Love has spoken its Name, both de profundis and in excelsis!

In his De Profundis, Oscar Wilde writes: "Out of the Carpenter's shop at Nazareth had come a personality ... destined to reveal to the world the mystical meaning of wine and the real beauties of the lilies of the field." And also, "All that Christ says to us ... is that every moment should be beautiful, that the soul should always be ready for the coming of the bridegroom, always waiting for the voice of the lover."

Several hymn texts I've written over the years allude to this correspondence between Oscar and Bosie, as in these lines from my 2005 hymn "God of Queer, Transgressive Spaces":

Brothers, bind ye to each other
Sisters, too, and have no shame
Sing with God our Father-Mother
Love that dares now speak its Name.
Or from a hymn I wrote in 1984 during the AIDS crisis:
Speak of Love that dares be Nameless
Love that calls us to this place
Nor shall fever still inflame us
Save the ardor of Thy grace.

So, whether it's known as the De Profundis psalm, the miner's prayer, or simply Psalm 130, its words are a summons from the depths of our deepest, queerest identity to trust in the redemptive, imaginative power of the Christ. Let me close this meditation with the opening lines of a hymn I wrote in 2012 (thinking subconsciously, I am sure, of that line from one of Cowper's hymns: "deep in unfathomable mines of never-ending skill"):

God loves us in mysterious ways
Beyond all sin or shame;
Rich blessings for our weary days
As Love dares speak its Name.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

Contributor: [Elizabeth Moraa](#)

Psalms 128:1-2 blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. (NKJV)

Most preachers today are preaching prosperous gospel, they tell the congregants to give tithe and offerings so that they can be blessed. There is a time we had a scandal of a pastor in Kenya who would pay people to testify that they were prayed for and they were healed of HIV+. sick people flocked his church looking for healing, they could even sell their properties so that they can give all to God for them to be healed. Fortunately, a member who was swindled came out to the social media and gave all the accounts of what happens in that church.

We never became Christians so that we will become richer and more prosperous. We become Christians because we come with our sin before a holy God, with our hopeless situations, we understand that we cannot stand before God in this state of sin. The true reason Jesus Christ came to this earth is to pay the debt of our sins with his own perfect blood, allowing God to view us as righteous because Christ paid our debt of sin. It is by the grace of God that I am saved.

God sees our hearts and he sees our desire to serve him in faithfulness and that is how He blesses us.

We do not have to bribe God for Him to heal us or bless us financially. all we need to do is “Fear the Lord and walk in his ways”.

Isaiah 65:17 The Lord says, “I am making a new earth and new heavens. The events of the past will be completely forgotten”. (GNB)

I have a very close gay friend; he is my prayer partner. I love it when he asks me “till when will this altar cry to God?” by this he refers to many problems we face as Lgbtq+ Christians. And I usually tell him “Soon and very soon we are going to see the king”. Our suffering will come to an end when we meet Christ and thus our new Jerusalem will be unveiled. the spiritual body of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:13 when God promised Abraham and his descendants that the world would belong to him, he did so, not because Abraham obeyed the law, but because he believed and was accepted as righteous by God.

I love the story of Abraham; he trusted God and whatever God told Abraham to do he would do without questioning. I love Abraham’s kind of faith, he trusted God. We are all justified by grace through faith and it is only by Faith that we are able to please God.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that I have been justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, my God and my savior. Thank you that I am accepted in Christ and have been declared righteous, it is not for what I have done, but because of trusting in what Christ did on the cross for me. may my life become a living testimony to the truth of the gospel of Christ to everyone I meet, may all I do, be done to the glory of God. in Jesus’ name I pray. Amen

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Contributor: [Jane Wanjigi](#)

Ezekiel 37: 4 He said, “Prophecy to the bones. Tell these dry bones to listen to the word of the Lord. (GNB)

There is hope in Christ.

I remember when we were young, some of us were being pushed to attend masses/prayers. To them it was so boring because the prayers took long and they could use this time to sleep or even watch movies. But one day a tragedy struck and our school bus had an accident while coming back from a trip. 10 students lost their lives and others were injured. This was like a wake-up call because the whole school started attending masses without being pressured. Its normal for us humans to get closer to God when things are not going well with us, our complex life styles have made our Spiritual life fade. In todays reading God has breathed his Spirit into us through the word, giving us hope and new life.

Sometimes we are overwhelmed by the storms of this world, we experience setbacks, tragedy and grieve. We go through the wilderness of lack, we experience dryness in our lives, we lose hope and we find no purpose to live. As I write this, I know what it is like to lose hope in life. I had this desire to serve God but my sexuality contradicted with what I was taught in church, I grew up listening to sermons why Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Here I was and I knew without a doubt I am a lesbian. It got to a point that I had to stop going to church.

Sunday morning, I would wake up and prepare to go to church but when the thoughts of my sexuality creep in I would just go back to bed and sleep, the only prayer I had was God to heal my sexuality or kill me. just like the Israelites in Babylon.

I went to look for hope into places where God has not promised we will find it. I got into bad company who abused drugs and my life sunk deeper into depression, I ended up like the Israelites in verse 11,” our bones are dried, and our hope is lost.”

It was one Saturday evening call that changed my life. A friend called me and asked me if I could accompany them to a meeting on Sunday afternoon and I said yes. To my amazement it was a fellowship for queer people, they worshiped and praised God and none felt guilty because of their sexuality. I made a choice to be part of this wonderful group and from then my life has changed.

Gods word is a source of hope and it is a means through which we gain hope in life’s struggles, when it all seems like too much, we must remember that God will not abandon us. Our society looks at us (Lgbtq+) through their lenses and all they see is hopelessness, they see sinners who are just waiting for eternal destruction, they see us as the reason many bad things are happening in the world today. They blame even climate change on our existence.

Let us be encouraged by today’s word that the Spirit of God is breathing life into our dead and dry situations. We are going to stand and walk again because we already know what to do, lets breath in and allow the Holy Spirit flow in to our souls.

Romans 8:6 “To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. (GNB)

There is always hope in God’s grace. May the grace of our Lord be with us all.

Amen.

Contributor: [Tori Allen](#)

Acts 20:7-12

“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 12 The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.”

As I read Acts 20 7-12, I first laughed a little to myself. Many times I have been Eutychus, “falling asleep” and sometimes out of a “window” while someone was trying to speak truth to me. I feel for Eutychus. Sometimes life is exhausting and at the end of a long day, my heart is not open to advice or suggestions for growth.

Fortunately, up to this point, I have avoided open third-story windows late at night. And fortunately for Eutychus, Paul was understanding and ran down, brought him back to life, and they went back upstairs to chat and eat.

We all have times where we fail to listen like Eutychus, and luckily, we can also find supportive teachers, co-workers, family or friends who can help breathe life back into us when we fall.

This story reminds me of Robert Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.”

The speaker in the poem is weary, and despite the horse’s insistence to press forward, is tempted to lie down in the woods and go to sleep. Which if he did this, he would surely die. But the speaker realizes,

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

But I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.”

Even when we are tired and giving up seems so much easier, we must trust that we can carry on, that we too have promises to keep. And that there are people in our lives, like Paul, who will pick us up if we fall.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10

Contributor: [Denise Hamblen](#)

There were many times my sweet mom shook her head and wondered from where the heck I came.

There were parts of my personality and my being that didn't fit into the description of a white Mormon girl from Riverdale, Utah. One of those things is my love of Motown and R&B and one of my absolute favorites is Gladys Knight. A few years ago she recorded a song Mercy's Arms. I consider the song a modern day Psalm. As I read and pondered the words in Ephesians, this song came to mind:

The mighty fortress walls
I have built around my foolish heart
How they crumble and they fall
As I surrender all
To mercy's arms
Bathed in holy rain
Cleansed from sinner's bitter stains
Only love remains
And I'm forever changed
By mercy's arms

[Chorus:]

Sweet the surrender
Sweet the embrace
Sweet the forgiveness
To one forever undeserving of his grace
Safely encircled
Rested and warmed
Sweet is the taste

Of love that awaits in mercy's arms
In the light, the life, the way
Is the key unlocking every chain
Sin is lost and freedom gained
The price was paid
By mercy's arms

[Chorus]

When I reach my journey's end
How I hope that He will call me friend
And reach out for me again
Forever spend
In mercy's arms

When we receive the grace of God in our hearts, we are forever changed. Receiving His divine love and grace alters everything about who we are and most importantly whose we are. It affects how we live and why we live. We take upon us a heart similar to our Savior's. We embrace a servant's heart. We honor and reverence His grace by our actions.

I have a dear cousin who has been blessed with an amazing talent. While I understand my opinion is somewhat biased, he is a very gifted artist. But more importantly, Greg is truly a kind and caring individual. He is modest and humble (to be honest, he didn't have to do much self promotion. His dad and my mom were his best publicists) and Greg has used this talent to honor and glorify our Heavenly Father and our Savior.

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Tuesday, March 28, 2023 - continued

Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10

The walls of my parents' home are filled with his artwork and a favorite of mine is one he titled Lost and Found. I went to the one in charge, his beautiful wife Syd, and asked permission to share this painting in my devotional. Here the Savior is in the company of one person. He does not need an audience to witness His ministering. He is serving one who has travelled a difficult path. Their clothes are simple and a bit worn. The backpack to the side gives us some idea of the load they carry. And, above all, they have the full attention of the Savior.

When I recognize the gifts of grace and mercy, uttering "thank you" is not enough. My works are not enough, but they are a part of God's plan to bring me salvation. And when I magnify my Savior, I serve.

I serve those who are struggling. I make time for them. I share the grace and love of God and assure them of their place in God's plan. And I do so quietly, following the example of Christ. During this Easter season, when we remember and ponder on the magnitude of the Resurrection, my prayer is that we flood the world with our gratitude, witnessed by our kindness and service to others.



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Contributor: [Jacklin Wambui](#)

Psalms 95:1 “come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! (GNB)

As we begin to read through this psalm, we are being called to worship. Look at how many times in these verses we are called to come and worship the Lord. But why is God worthy of such worship? the psalmist gives us many reasons. First of all, God is the creator and sustainer of all life. He is the king above all gods. God is the supreme power; He controls the order of all things. He is worthy of our praise and worship. This almighty and powerful God who created us also cares for us and longs to look after us.

Exodus 16:9 Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole community to come and stand before the LORD, because he has heard their complaints.” (GNB)

This book of Exodus paint to us a picture of a God who hears our prayers, a God who provides in unexpected situations. Many times, we have found ourselves in a desert, a desert is a place of lack where there is no water, no food and the sun is scorching. The children of Israel found themselves in this desert, they witnessed the wonders of the Almighty God. they were still doubting when Moses told them to just take enough for the day, whoever took more the following day it was full of worms. This takes me to the Lord’s prayer. “Give us our daily bread”. This means we should be contented with what God is providing for us because He knows our needs.

The same God who was with Moses in the wilderness, is the same God we are serving today.

There is a time I used to experience this dryness in my life. I was born in a very rural setting, according to me, I was the only queer person in that village. It has taken me 10 years to find a fellowship for my fellow Lgbtq+ persons. I feel refreshed and quenched because I had this longing to meet my fellow Lgbtq+ Christians. God heard my prayer that I now feel complete, my desert days are over.

Ephesians 2:12-13 “At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to Gods chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on Gods promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God. but now, in union with Christ Jesus you, who used to be far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (GNB)

I never knew that I can be a queer and a Christian. I was brought up in the Anglican faith and I grew up knowing God hates people like me. as much I tried to convince myself that I was a Christian, my sexuality pulled me back into a cocoon. I was desperate for Salvation and deliverance. I was looking for someone to affirm me that I am still a Christian.

God answered my prayers by connecting me to a local fellowship. It is a shame that there are still differences when we are referring to the body of Christ. Some feel more entitled than others, I am not surprised when I say I am a lesbian Christian and am pushed back with “no! you can’t be, God hates sin”.

I don’t get angry by these remarks anymore, I know I was transformed by the blood of Jesus the moment I confessed my sins.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for your loving care over us and ask that you help us not only to listen for your word but also, as best as we can, to faithfully obey it and share your love with all people. In Jesus name. Amen.

Contributor: [Tonie](#)

Psalms 31 begins and ends with a petition for God's favor and protection.

Verse 9 opens with cry to the Lord to be gracious, then gives a litany of distress that suggest depression, sickness, and perhaps persecution.

The psalmist seems draw a plight like that of king David before his anointing, he suffered in the wilderness when he was grazing his father's sheep, the psalmist voice complete trust in God the dire circumstances, however great David troubles were, in his trust to God was great, he took careful inventory of his crises but would not dwell on it.

David was probably a mere boy and such had not been thought worth of an invitation but had been left with servants keeping the sheep. The prophet now orders him to be summoned and marks his value in God's sight by saying we will not sit down till he come hither. A divine communication of gifts and graces, to fit him for the power and make him a type of him who was to be the anointed one, who receive the spirit not by measure but without measure.

God used rejection and the wilderness to craft David and he will do the same for you, to use all junks and hurts of life to help drive you, we may think we don't fit within the scope of the promises because we do not love God, as we ought but the context disabuses us of that notion, all who are called by God, saved by God are lovers of God, if you are justified, you love God.

So his promises is for you; he will use all pain for his purposes and glory driving you to him.

Paul prays with joy for the church and its members, when we are growing in Christ and have him self-centered in our hearts and mind, thoughts turns into prayers praying for each other's cultivates a good environment of joy and dependence on Christ for our relationship.

The summary of all these teachings, creates and shows God's love, and teaches us for every gold to shine has to be burned with strong fire, for the psalmist starts by asking for mercy because of distress, broke and torn heart but end with the show of trust to God.

To all the LGBTQ family that lives in desperately, remember that even King David was not worth in the eyes of his brothers but worth in the eyes of God and he became the king.

Let us create the partnership that Paul is teaching us, the good work started by God in ourselves, let us be filled with the fruit of pure love among ourselves.

Contributor: [Lucy Wanigru](#)

Psalm 31:1 “I come to you, Lord, for protection; never let me be defeated. You are a righteous God; save me. I pray! (GNB)

When we are overwhelmed by the storms in this world, we remember that this world is not our home, we are simply passing through. We yearn for a place of safety, a place where we can feel protected and that place is only in our Lord Jesus. When we put our trust in the Lord we are assured that no matter what bitter circumstances of life rise up against us, the Lord will always be our refuge and strength.

Job 13:15 “I’ve lost all hope, so what if God kills me? I am going to state my case to him. (GNB)

God blessed me with a child that is physically challenged. It took me two years to accept the fact that my child will never be like the other children and special care must be offered to him at all times. The circumstances under which I conceived this child was full of trauma that I don’t want to remember, I was pressured to do an abortion and just to be honest, if I had money for a safe abortion I would have gone for it. When I gave birth to him, I gave thanks to God for a safe delivery but I was not ready for the news that he needs to undergo surgery after one month. My world crashed and my hope was gone.

Just like Job, I questioned God so many times. I was tired of crying and praying for a miracle. But the grace of God has been sufficient for me. I came to realize that even in the most difficult circumstances God remains with them that trust Him.

This wonderful God has walked this journey with me and my son, God has provided for us in mysterious ways financially and emotionally. I am at peace with God and I always feel blessed to have this boy in my life.

Philippians 1: 28 “Do not be afraid of your enemies; always be courageous, and this will prove to them that they will lose and that you will win, because it is God who gives you the victory.”

As Paul was telling the Philippians, for me to live is gain and also to die will be better but in all things. Let the name of the Lord be praised. I feel sorry for the state of the church in Kenya.

Instead of church leaders accepting and embracing Lgbtq+ Christians. They are our enemies, they condemn us, the hatred is always too loud and yet we all belong to one God. I may not understand what you are going through today but our God knows and understand.

Let us pray together.

Dear God, help me recognize that even in the most difficult situations you are with me, and your grace is sufficient no matter what pressures and problems I may have to face. I am a witness that you bring joy even in stressful situations, help me align my priorities with your desire. To live a life that pleases you and brings you glory, enable me to serve you joyfully each day. Thank you for equipping me with the whole armor of God. increase my faith and hope in you and help me to stand fast when the evil day come.

This I ask in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Contributor: [Rufus Mugo](#)

After the brutal killing of Lgbtq+ activist Edwin Chiloba, I told my friends that when someone says their lives is in danger, they better believe them, the issue should be taken serious by those close to them. We have lost so many lives and it is because we do not take in to account their cry for help.

As a gay man in Kenya, there is nowhere that you can stay comfortable and feel safe, our lives are like those of antelopes in the jungle, they are always on the look out because you never know where the attack can come from. It can be from your own family, neighbors and even the partners we have met in the past still intimidate us and bully us to fund them or else they out us. I usually ask myself why the society harbor so much hatred towards us but I have come to realize that most people hate and reject us because of being ignorance, they hate what they don't know. They have already judged us that we are evil and there should be no compromise about it. Day in day out we cry out to God for protection and favor.

I relate with the psalmist in Psalm 31, it is a prayer by one who suffers unjustly and, in that suffering, put complete trust in God because He sees our suffering and knows our trouble. The psalmist is not ashamed to call upon the LORD. He considered it appropriate that God answered by never allowing His servant to never be ashamed before his enemies and adversaries.

I love it when my pastor says “never be ashamed to kneel before God because He will make you stand before men”. How I pray that I may become a man of prayer and that my sexuality will not be hinderance for me to experience the greatness of God.

Lamentation 3:55 “From the bottom of the pit, O LORD, I cried out to you. And when I begged you to listen to my cry, you heard. (GNB)

Prayer is the breath in which we draw the air of mercy in our petitions and returning it in praises maintains our Spiritual life. God's grace will always be sufficient for us, he will deliver us from every trouble, He will save us with everlasting salvation.

Mark 10:32 “Jesus and His disciples were now on the road going up to Jerusalem. Jesus was going ahead of the disciples, who were filled with alarm; the people who followed behind were afraid. Once again Jesus took the twelve disciples aside and spoke of the things that were going to happen to him.” (GNB)

Despite what was about to happen to Jesus, he was with his disciples and he was leading the way. How I desire that I may follow Jesus even when I don't understand the situation.

Rejection, persecution and death are all around us, in these moments we have a choice and the only choice we have is to follow Jesus and allow him to lead us in our way.

I got to a point in my life where I was tired of everything, I was bitter with my life, for a long time I fought depression and at times I was bitter with God for not calling me home. When we are going through these tough seasons in life, let's be encouraged to turn to the word of God. the word of God will calm your emotions and give you divine peace.

Contributor: [Diane Krantz](#)

Matthew's gospel for Palm Sunday tells us that the crowd welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem calls him a prophet. The crowd is jubilant. But if we consider earlier words of Jesus about the prophets, they are often murdered. On this occasion the crowd's words foreshadow Jesus' imminent crucifixion, called for by the very people celebrating him.

So why are prophets like Jesus murdered? They are "outsiders." They don't conform; that is, they don't think certain ways just because that is how the majority of their community thinks; they don't do things just because everyone else is doing them; they don't say things just because everyone else is saying them. I was in high school when wearing a shirt with an alligator on it was a status symbol. If one didn't wear an alligator, one wasn't part of the "in" crowd. Of course, I didn't wear an alligator. I was a "Rebel without a cause." The purpose of my rebellion was self satisfaction.

Jesus was a rebel with a cause. Remember the Pharisee who asked, about Jesus, if anything good could come out of Nazareth? Just coming from Nazareth made Jesus a non-conformist. He doesn't conform in a number of ways. He lets his followers pick grain on the sabbath. He and his band don't perform ritual purifying of hands before sitting at table. Like all prophets, Jesus scandalizes his community, and especially its leaders, by speaking out about larger issues rather than meticulously following the many dictates of Jewish law.

We members of the LGBTQ+ community are, despite a large social movement in our favor, still considered outsiders by many in America. Members of our group have been bullied, tormented, even killed, not because we have spoken against

heteronormative people but simply because of who we are. Despite federal laws, "LGBTQ people experience four times more interpersonal violence than non-LGBTQ people," according to UCLA's Williams Institute.

Nonconforming, and the suffering it often brings, aren't the only marks of the prophet. The prophet speaks the truth, no matter how hard that is for some, especially those in power, to accept. Jesus does this repeatedly. Remember when he calls the Pharisees "whitened sepulchers"? This is a terrible insult. He equates them as a group that thinks itself ritually pure and above others with a place of terrible impurity. He scourges the sellers in the temple and overturns their tables, describing them as thieves. He foretells the fall of Jerusalem to a people chaffing under Roman rule.

What do we say to those in power? Openly gay people serve in numerous U.S. political positions on both state and federal levels. In Europe, openly gay men and women serve as prime ministers in their respective countries. So we can say we are your leaders and you neighbors, your friends, and your relatives. We succeed in school, and at work.

More importantly, our love relationships are as much a reflection of the love of God described by the psalmist as yours are. Being married allows some of us to show that we are as capable of committed love as others in our culture. Most of us are not called to be martyrs, but living lives faithful to what we believe and to those we love makes each of us a witness to the truth. Loyal, long-lasting friendships witness to ways in which we, like the psalmist and the prophets, glorify God.

Monday, April 3, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Contributor: [Anonymous](#)

Thank you for joining me in this time of devotion and encouragement.

Background

In Isaiah it is easy to miss details in the gems like we have here. This passage is about Jesus and his uniqueness and attitude toward the damaged and despised of this world - definitely me - maybe you. Many of us have been damaged by someone and despised by others. Or worse, we despise ourselves. If you have ever felt that, read on.

Key Character

Jesus. Consider these concepts that are used to describe him: Servant, chosen, bringer of delight to God, Spirit-led, justice server. Then we skip down later and find: called in righteousness, handheld and kept, covenant and light, eye-opener, and prisoner-deliverer.

WOW

Jesus is unique, holy, and specially suited to touch “the nations” - everyone. Each of us. ALL of us.

His attitude towards us

Three very unique visuals are given to help us understand the attitude of Jesus to the world.

1 - He didn't come shouting. Jesus was strong and unwavering. But he was also gentle, soft spoken and kind. Jesus talked with the bruised - not at them. Jesus sat with the sinners, not over them.

I need that. Talk with me - not at me. Don't just tell me where I am wrong, but tell me how to do better. That is Jesus. He wants to “commune” with us. Give his grace to us - not throw judgment at us.

2 - He would not break a bruised reed. Now this is absolutely one of my favorites. Reeds are hollow. There is nothing within a reed to keep it upright. If the outer surface is even slightly damaged, it takes almost nothing to break it over. It will bend at an abrupt angle and never recover. Even if it remains in one piece; once it is broken over, it is gone.

I have been that bruised reed. I have been despised and discouraged. Told I wasn't good enough. And worse, there were/are many times within myself when I despised who I was. Why do I not fit in? Why do I not feel comfortable in my own body? Why does my mate not desire me? Why am I not first on someone's (anyone's) list? We often feel bruised. But Jesus wants to bind us lest we break. And beyond that, to restore us if we are already broken.

3 - He won't put out the smoldering wick. This is actually the best rendering of the Hebrew. It isn't that there is a flame and it is small - there is no flame. There is just a bit of glowing and smoke. No flame. One strong puff or a little pressure and POOF, the ember is gone. Or just ignore it and it will fade away completely.

Have you ever felt like that? The candle of hope within you wasn't just burning dim, it was barely smoking. There was hardly a noticeable glow. Maybe you - like me - even thought about snuffing it out yourself.

Jesus is all about restoring that flame. It takes a gentle touch, a soft breath, a gentle closeness to bring a smoldering wick back to life. And no matter how weak the ember of your candle is - Jesus wants to restore it to a flame that is a joy in you. He can do that. He can and will do it for you.

That is who this passage is about:

-The damaged and despised who need a gentle source of grace and healing.

-And Jesus the gentle healer of our souls.

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Contributor: [Vicki Thomas](#)

Growing up as a preacher's kid, the church was a huge part of my life, forming the lens through which I viewed everything. My life was saturated with the things of God and looking back, it's hard to believe I was so blind to the depths and riches of God's all inclusive love and grace.

After graduating from a Christian University, I went on to work as a Clinical Counselor, Spiritual Director, University Instructor, and as Chaplain to Pastoral Staff within the Nazarene denomination. Through these experiences, I have seen the good, the bad, and the ugly of organized religion. And you know what? I still love the Church — I still love this blessed Body of Christ, which I am a graced to a part of with all its imperfections and brokenness. And while, I have never felt the need to walk away from Christ, I have felt the need to “unlearn” some things I was taught about God. This “unlearning” often feels like a dying process to the “Christian-me” I thought myself to be. But isn't that exactly what Jesus calls us to do? He said: “Unless a kernel of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12: 24-26) I didn't realize how constricted and closed my own heart was until this dying process began.

This glorious Body of Christ is us - the living breathing, presence of God on this earth. It is evolving, transforming and growing just as it has been throughout the centuries. And just as our physical body experiences growing pains, so does the Body of Christ. Isn't it true that if we consistently neglect one part of our physical body, our overall health suffers? Eventually, symptoms appear, pain, discomfort, disease and our sense of well-being declines. When that happens, it feels like our physical body is falling apart!

It seems the Church is becoming painfully aware of how it has neglected the LGBTQ community as part of its own body, and healing is needed.

We are told, the Messiah came with “healing in his wings” but that healing was resisted because it didn't come in the way people expected. Jesus courageously spoke into that culture in ways that broke tradition, broke commandments and shook the religious status quo. Jesus lived in ways that validated and embraced outcasts and the ones labeled “sinful” by others. He consistently displayed the splendor of God through his radical love and acceptance of all humanity. And as his death approached, he declared to his followers: “When I am lifted up, I will draw all people unto myself.” (John 12:32) Notice, he didn't say, when a denomination, doctrine, or dogma is lifted up, but he said, when “I,” the Love that is limitless and holds the diversity of humanity together is lifted up, I will draw all people to Myself.

Psalm 71 says: “In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame...Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go.” Sadly, some churches have not been places of refuge where all can go, instead they are shame inducers. The good news is that in Christ, we all can find refuge and rest for our weary souls, because there are no qualifiers to be welcomed and loved by God.

My prayer is this: Oh, God, You are my Rock and my Refuge. Help me to die daily to anything that prevents my heart from bursting wide open with Your Love. May it be You, alone, that I lift up in my life - nothing else. Open my ears to hear the courageous voices speaking, with love, into the Church today. May I be a vessel that doesn't resist the healing You are bringing to Your Body. Let it be, Oh God. Amen.

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Contributor: [Golde Sosenko](#)

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me, said the Psalmist.

Be pleased.

Such an amazing thought that God would reach out, joyfully, and help me or the ones I sit with and listen to the ones I love.

Everyday, and sometimes wakeful in the night, I say God, please help me. Sometimes without the please. And imagining that God would take pleasure in answering my prayer does not cross my mind. Imagine these lines from the Psalmist as a word cloud and see the references to joy and pleasure and rejoicing and gladness.

I am writing this in the persona of the Jewish grandmother I never knew. She had 10 children, one of whom was my father.

My grandparents and their five youngest children left everything they knew to come to America. Their older children had long since left and made their way to new lives in safer places. The journey was hard and I was told took a year from Odessa to Hamburg to Liverpool to that final ship that brought them to America. They were fleeing from people who hated them and wished them dead simply because they were Jews.

I sit with people who are hated and attacked simply for being queer or trans or different in some way that varies from what someone decided is acceptable. Someones (sic) who long ago left behind rejoicing, gladness and being pleased to help. Their heirs plague us all today, stealing dignity and threatening and taking lives.

The words of the Psalmist offer comfort. Petitioning God so that those wishing harm and bringing harm will be turned back and dishonored for their malevolence.

Please help me, God, I say. Not just for me or my own sake but for all the names known to me and unknown, put their tormentors to shame and, I would add, open their eyes and minds and open their hearts to welcome and embrace those to their right and left, those behind and in front, those all around.

I saw a young person today at the medical marijuana dispensary who was positively regal. They had half of their head shaved and the other half with a elegant swoosh of silky turquoise hair. They had Doc Martens boots with thick soles and wore a decorated black and metal coat against the cold. I smiled and thanked them for their beautiful presentation. Such a gift. So much courage to be themselves.

Against all odds, I still believe, as the Psalmist said, that God is great.

She saved my family in their flight from home to make a new home in a new world. She finds comfort and protection from harm for many. I trust in God to make me an instrument of peace and widen the experience of joy and gladness.

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 ; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Contributor: [Wilfred Nyokhabi](#)

I was raised in as an Anglican and then I joined a high school that observed the Catholic faith, it was a privilege even to get a chance to go to high school so there was nothing like complaining. You had to observe all the rules and regulations. I had a hard time to adjust to attend mass very early in the morning, to recite rosary and the hardest of all was the 40 days of lent.

There is a girl who noticed my struggles and she volunteered to help me understand what lent was about. And this is what she told me:

“The journey of lent is an exodus, an exodus from slavery to freedom. The 40 days correspond to the 40 years that Gods people trekked through the desert to return to their homeland. It was difficult to leave Egypt but God made it possible for them, during their journey they met difficulties and they were tempted to yearn to go back to Egypt and it is the same case to us. Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, it is a time to reconsider the path we are taking the route that will us home to rediscover our relationship with God. it is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed and just ask ourselves; are we living for Christ, do I love God with all my heart, have I separated myself fully from the things of the world? “

Psalms 116:1 “I love the Lord, because he hears me; he listens to my prayers. He listens to me every time I call to him.“

“In heaven there is no dustbin for prayers.”

This is what our pastor keeps reminding us and I love this quote because I have seen this God answering my prayers.

Psalms 116 is celebration for answered prayers and as we are in the Spirit of lent, I can hear Christ in verse 8 and 9, “The Lord saved me from death; he stopped my tears and kept me from

defeat. And so, I walk in the presence of the Lord in the world of the living.”

This good Lord hears our prayers and answers them, the psalmist is asking in verse 12 “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?” and he answers by saying, “I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord”. This reminds us of the Lord’s supper.

1 st Corinthians 11:26 This means every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. The death of Jesus on the cross and resurrection, transformed the cup of the Lord’s wrath into the cup of our salvation proving his love towards humanity. And now that we are saved by the grace of God, we are the disciples of Christ.

John 13: 14-15 “I, your Lord and teacher, have just washed your feet. You then, should wash one another’s feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you”.

Have you ever wondered why the Lgbtq+ community is broken? if you need to emulate Jesus, reach out to a queer person today and listen to them. Homelessness has pushed them to the streets and these streets have turned many to drug addicts and sex workers.

These people come from well off Christian families but because of their sexuality they are thrown out of their homes. A country like Kenya boasts of 80% Christians. What if we follow the commandment in verse 34-35 “And now I give you a new commandment; love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know you are my disciples.”

If we act according to Gods words, we can manifest God and always glorify Him. Amen

Friday, April 7, 2023

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Contributor: [Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen](#)

Have you ever heard this phrase?

“We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world.”

I’ve always liked that phrase - it helps me to remember that even when I am in my darkest places I can remember that Easter is around the corner - Jesus is here for me, and I have nothing to fear.

That wasn’t always true for me.

When I first realized that I am LGBT, I was in theological school, 40 years old, and about to be ordained into a denomination that was not affirming of LGBT people. I left that denomination and that seminary.

It was a Good Friday time for me.

I knew that God hated me. I had heard often enough that God hated LGBT people, and now that I was one of “those” I knew that I was hated by God.

Right before Jesus died on the cross, on Good Friday, he said: “Eli, Eli, la’ma sabach-tha’ni?” that is, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46b, NRSV)

I felt that way. After decades of living the life I believed God would have my live, as a “good Christian woman” - married to a man, mother to four children, deacon and elder at my church, Sunday School teacher and Church Nursery School Superintendent - I did everything “right”, at least I tried to.

So why had God forsaken me?

And why did God forsake His son to die an unimaginable death on that cross?

We are Easter people.

We know that three days later, Jesus rose from the the tomb, to bring us in right relationship with God and each other - the atonement, it is called, though in my mind I pronounce it at-ONE-ment, reconciliation, forgiveness and healing for all of creation.

My time in the Garden of Gethsemane, feeling utterly abandoned - forsaken - by God, was actually a time of new birth. I emerged from my tomb of feeling abandoned by God to a beautiful new life, new ministry with people I never knew before - LGBT people, in all of their diversity. Diversity that teaches me about the infinite diversity and glory of God.

It is a gift beyond measure, this new life of mine. I feel God’s love in ways I never did before, surrounding me, upholding me, with blessings overflowing. I realize now that God never hated me. I hated myself. But God’s love is constant, unshakeable. In my darkest time, I think God loved me even more.

Even on the darkest of days - Good Friday - God loves us with love beyond measure. And blessings beyond our imagination are just around the corner.

We are Easter people.

And God loves us. God always has, and always will.

Saturday, April 8, 2023

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Contributor: [Liggera Edmonds-Allen](#)

1 Peter 4:1-8

“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does. The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.”

“For whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin.”

What a difficult phrase to approach.

I come to this sentence in the 21st century, where questions of oppression, victimization, and survival fuel my every waking hour. I hear news from all over my country: another transgender sister killed, another article calling our ilk demonic, another set of refugees escaping states of persecution.

And I think, ‘LORD, haven’t we suffered enough?’

It is tempting to respond to suffering with the ‘passions, drunkenness, and revels’ that Peter describes. In fact, that’s what the oppressors point to - a queer community that meets in bars, who lives ‘in the same excesses of dissipation’ and drags other souls down with them.

‘Bring your children to church,’ they said, ‘not drag bars.’ And we cried, ‘drag is my church!’

Because ours is not the celebration of carousing and lawless idolatry. Ours is the celebration of love, which covers a multitude of sins. When we dance, we are dancing in spite of, in the face of. We are dancing together, in constant love of one another.

Ours is the people who suffer in the flesh. Ours is the people visible in public, visible to be yelled at, and thrown out, and made to carry the blame of a thousand people’s fear. Every day we choose to step outside, dressed and entitled or true name, is a day that we choose to arm ourselves with the same intention. We choose to never bend to those easy whims, to cover ourselves in lies and sequester ourselves for others comfort.

Yes, we suffer. Yes, we love. Does this outweigh the sin? I will give an accounting to Him who stands ready to judge the living and dead.

I saw Him dancing with us, and marching with us. I saw Him singing.

The end of all things is near, and I am not afraid. I am going to be with Him.

Sunday, April 9, 2023: Resurrection of the Lord

**Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10**

Contributor: [Pastor Megan](#)

Mathew 28:6-7 *He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him; lo, I have told you.* (KJB)

I love Easter season because it is the core of our belief as Christians. This is the heart of our common faith, with the resurrection, our faith is affirmed as true.

In the resurrection story, we have a clear picture of who our God is. What captures my mind in Mathew 28 is the love of the two women, they had decided to follow Jesus even in the grave, they knew there was placed a very big stone. They had no strength to roll the stone but regardless they went and there they met the risen Christ, the stone was rolled out for them.

Darkness cannot overcome the light regardless of who you are, the light prevails. The light of resurrection always wins. Do not be afraid, you will meet the risen Christ in Galilee, I believe Galilee was the venue for most of Jesus ministry and that is why he wanted to meet the disciples there. Even today God is meeting us at the center of our needs. Jesus is leading the way for us and after you meet Jesus it shall not be the same again.

Acts 10:34-35 Peter began to speak; I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who worship him and do what is right are acceptable to him. No matter what race they belong to. (GNB)

Gods saving grace is universal. Those who fear God and do right are welcome to salvation through Christ. Those who fear God are those who have faith in God. as a result of their faith, they do what they know to be right, doing what is right include having faith in Christ.

The gospel of peace through Jesus Christ brings forgiveness of sins to anyone who believes- even uncircumcised gentiles.

The church of Christ divided over the issue of Lgbtq+ persons, Pope Francis is being bitterly criticized for saying “homosexuality is not a crime”, the church in Africa has distanced itself from his remarks terming them personal.

If as Christians we follow the real teachings of Christ, we can be the most accepting religion in the world. Christ taught us to love one another. Christ embraced and loved all, why are we having divisions among us?

Why didn't Jesus say a thing about Lgbtq+? Most Christians still believe that the Lgbtq+ community are beyond the long arm of Gods grace, they know that God has written us off and we cannot receive forgiveness of sins. The good news this Easter Sunday is that, Gods saving grace belongs to everyone who believes without prejudice.

As the body of Christ, we should always strive to live in peace. Peace in our relationship with God instead of enmity and condemnation. Peace in our wrestling against the bondage of sin so that we may experience victory and joy rather than defeat and despair. We should have peace with one another and humble so that we can be a channel for the love of Christ to others.

Colossians 3:3-4 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear and share his glory. (GNB)

Those that are born again are dead to sin, because its dominion is broken. the Holy Spirit helps us to despise earthly things and desire those that are heavenly. Even though we have not seen Christ, we know we are safe with Him and we all look forward to that day where there shall be an assembly of all the redeemed, where we shall be compensated by appearing with Him in His glory.

Its is true, Christ is risen. Let us celebrate.

Contributor: [Ash Mason](#)

Colossians 3:5-11

I tend to be a person who likes to make others uncomfortable. Odd way to start this, I recognize.

Not in a sadistic way, but when I'm around people who are only seeing a small piece of something and refuse to see anything else, I love to pull other pieces in and make them uncomfortable. If I'm able to be honest with myself, it's probably a teensy bit selfish.

More than anything, I like making myself squirm. I like to sit in the discomfort and do the hard process of learning something from it.

This passage does exactly that. This passage is one that I picture being stated and people are smiling, nudging each other, and tweeting, "HAH. I knew I was right!" UNTIL we get to verse 8. Verse 8 immediately causes discomfort and inner turmoil. Verse 8 flips things on its head and ushers us into a place where we can no longer say "well as long as I'm not like THAT person,

I'm doing pretty good." Verse 8 reminds us that comparison kills healthy relationships. And that we all are humans, capable of failure and flaws.

I'm a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and a therapist to this community as well. Believe it or not, this community is often in scenarios where people are nudging their buddies and smiling at the sake of the lgbt individual.

The area that I live in, Kansas City in the central United States, has recently had a ridiculous amount of debate and legislation surrounding transgender teenagers and how the school is "supposed" to Intervene. I've had so many conversations with teenagers and parents regarding how this legislation is simply another level of hatred and disgust pointed at them. These laws surround what a teen is allowed to do in school, some of them require the school to tell the families if they find out the teen is transitioning, and more.

There are so many problems with all of this that I would be happy to discuss one on one, but that's not the place for this. This legislation represents Colossians 3:5-7.

People are pumped about these laws. People are excited....UNTIL our teen suicide rates are through the roof, we have more teens on heavy anxiety/depression/anti psychotic medication than ever before, we have teens engaging in unsafe sex because they're afraid to talk to the adults in their lives, and more.

One thing I've learned, is that if I'm feeling pretty comfortable with my stance on something, then there are probably a few pieces of the puzzle I'm not considering. I need to consider my minority friends. I need to consider future generations. I need to consider my own life experiences and the way they may be blinding me to a more wise decision or stance.

If I'm sitting there nudging my friends and grinning, I probably haven't looked at the whole puzzle yet. And, as I've learned, very little about Jesus and His teachings are there to make us comfortable.

Contributor: [Rahab Wambui](#)

When Israelites crossed the red sea, they witnessed deliverance and were marveled at the Lord's doing. Many had started complaining to Moses and wished they would have died in Egypt than in the desert. But Moses was composed because he trusted who called him, he comforted them by telling them to wait and see the salvation of the Lord.

Moses obeyed the voice of the Lord and the Lord made a way for them in the red sea. They witnessed with their eyes how the Egyptians, their chariots and drivers were swallowed by the red sea. Their enemies were completely destroyed.

Now the Israelites are singing a new song to the Lord, a song of thanksgiving. Many times, we are awed by God when we are delivered from some ugly scenes and we are not able to express ourselves in words. We are just overwhelmed by the goodness of our God.

I love my pastor who usually says "If you cant speak, just sing a song and God will understand."

This reminds me of a situation I found myself sometimes back. A friend invited me to her birthday party which was held at their home. I felt safe to go there because I had known her for sometimes and she was a lesbian like me. the party went well until I excused myself to go to the bathroom, just as I was about to enter to the washroom a woman pushed the door and pulled me in. I had never been intimate with a woman and this woman here was carelessly undressing me. then there was a knock at the door, the woman started screaming that I wanted to rape her. It was such an ugly scene as everyone wanted to know what was happening.

The friend who had invited me took me away from the scene because she knew I was not capable of that kind of a thing. This woman was her cousin and she knew her well, she is married to a man though she is attracted to women and because she wants to retain her marriage she had to act the victim. On this day God delivered me, I even do not try to imagine what could have happened to me. I just thank God that I came out of it safe. Till this day I don't attend events just because I am invited.

I give thanks to God all the time because His love is eternal, what an amazing God we have. The Israelites were delivered and made special people before the Lord and from the tribe of Judah came our savior Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:12 You are the people of God; He Loved you and chose you for his own, so then you must clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. This is a calling to all Christians, to practice all this we must be able to love one another.

Let the world see Christ in us. I thank God today that there are still Christians out there emulating Christ.

May our good Lord bless us all.

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless and guide us always. Amen

Contributor: [Rev. Karen Pitt](#)

I am a biracial, lesbian, disabled women living in Ontario, Canada. Throughout my life I have felt ‘my face doesn’t fit’. I hid what was viewed as unacceptable in me, seeking who I ‘should’ be. The most affirming influence in this conflict was Jesus. His love, acceptance, and call of those who are marginalized and voiceless was also a call to me.

When I was born, my mother was forced to fight for me, and as I was crowning in the birth canal the nurse forced me back up, as the doctor was not there. Many years later I discovered my deep sense of fear and anxiety about ‘being in the wrong place at the wrong time’ originated in this moment. Throughout my life my mother provided many sayings that further isolated me. ‘We do not wash our dirty linen in public’ surrounded my sense of abandonment in the midst of physical violence and sexual abuse, alcoholism, and deep sense of not belonging.

Despite this my heart was drawn to faith in a God who loved me. This passage (Matthew 28:1-10) draws the amazing and challenging truth of Jesus’ love for all. At this time many people were outsiders and seen as unloved and excluded. Women were less valued with no public voices. Jesus’ response to ALL those who were downcast was to draw them close to him. When Matthew tells the story of the women at the tomb of Jesus, he reveals a shocking message of anticipation turning to direction and service.

The women arrived at the tomb, with nothing but their willingness to watch and wait. These women followed Jesus from Galilee and ‘provided’ for him. This word in Greek is ‘diakonei’ which translates as ‘serve’ or ‘provide’. It is used by Matthew when Jesus was in the wilderness and the angels ‘provided’ for him (4:11).

Peter’s mother-in-law also rose from her sickbed (8:15) and ‘provided’ or ‘served’ Jesus. The only other person to provide’ in the Gospel was Jesus (20:28) when he declares he has come, not to be provided for, but to provide. This word describes how these women, marginalized yet raised up into the group who followed Jesus, were intimately bound to Jesus. The women went to the cross, and when all those with community ‘voices’ went home, these women went to the tomb.

As the men at the tomb (the guards) fell to the ground, as if dead, when the angel came, the women waited, awake and in anticipation. What would they see? The women, filled with fear and joy were transformed from silence to knowing. They were commanded to go to Galilee and ‘tell’ the others and on the way, Jesus appeared, spoke to them and told them what ‘to do’. These voiceless women would be sent to proclaim. The women, like all those who Jesus called, were called to ‘provide’ for those who had not heard – yet.

The women represented ALL those who were outcast, sinners, rejected, and broken, who were called. They followed, provided, watched and waited, and went to proclaim. The voiceless speaking to the voiceless. The sinners speaking release, love, and restoration to the sinners.

And this draws me to proclaim to you that we are welcome, we belong, we are invited to use our rejection, brokenness, and abandonment to discover the call to come, provide or serve, and speak using our voices. Though many have been defined as voiceless, unimportant, rejected individuals, we are called to speak, provide, and know that ‘the stone that the builders have rejected’ has a foundational role. This is the Lord’s doing.

Contributor: [Rev. Melissa Lynn Guthrie](#)

“Are you crying?!”

I am a highly sensitive person. I feel deeply. And my feelings—a whole range of feelings, from joy to grief—my feelings flow (flood) from my eyes. I used to joke that I had faulty tear ducts. I’ve learned to embrace the abundance of tears; my wife still seems surprised when I begin to cry and she still asks, “Are you crying?!” or “Are you crying again?!”

Yes. Just yes. I’m crying. I might cry. I’m about to cry. It’s a spiritual gift? Curse?

I’ve read the John 20 text many times. So many times. Jesus’ appearance to Mary Magdalene and to the other disciples, too. To a woman first. A woman who first shares the good news, “I have seen the Lord!”

In this text and in this season I am struck by the sense and splendor of sight: Mary’s eyes, the eyes of the disciples, our eyes. And Mary’s tears. I imagine Mary continued crying when she *saw* her Teacher. Tears that release grief. Tears that rejoice in newness.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying... Angels asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

What has been taken away from you? What is being taken from our queer siblings, especially our trans siblings and young LGBTQ+ kin? What are you, what are we, taking from others or from Creation?

Surprise—I cry about book bans and state legislation. I cry over roadkill. I also weep over my work because I get to engage with affirming churches and organizations throughout the United States and Canada. When was the last time you wept? Or why have you not let yourself weep? What do you long for and what are you looking for? Looking forward to?

I have always believed that the kin-dom of God is breaking in here and now. Do you see it?

Our gospel text tells us Mary and the disciples *saw* the Lord. How have you seen the Lord?

Take time to describe the experience through all your senses. If an encounter doesn’t come to mind, keep in mind the risen Lord may not match our expectations. Where are you looking? And who will you tell of the good, good news?

Do you sense something new in this season? Will you share with others and will you join in shaping something new? We are invited to share—we have a responsibility to share and to shape the beloved kin-dom.

Mary sees and Mary shouts, “I have seen the Lord!”

Honoring the diversity of how we experience the world and the divine, every time I imagine seeing the Lord I am claiming an experience, an embodiment of the divine. Some of us see, some of us hear... My adult son is mostly nonverbal, but he shares uniquely and beautifully something holy and good.

May all of us sense the Lord with us and for us.

A prayer for eyes to see—a spirit to sense the sacred—and faithfulness to shape and share Good News:

Holy God, God of tears, God of grief and loss and joy and newness, may we honor our bodies and the bodies of every sibling. May we see the sacred in one another and in our daily lives. When we cannot see through our tears or through injustice, help us listen for our names to sense something new. May we reshape systems; may we invest in practices that build the beloved kin-dom. May we get our hands dirty sharing Love, love that is resurrected all around us and through us. May it be so.



Rev. Kim Purl is an online minister at missouripastor.org who lives in rural Missouri and is ordained in the Church of the Nazarene.

Kim is one of the hosts at holydialogues.org, enjoying rich dialogue at the intersection of LGBTQI+ and faith.

As a mother of two teenagers and two young adults, she finds herself in natural conversation on social topics and faith over yummy Thai food.

Kim is married to her minister-husband, Joe, who helps her keep one foot on the ground.



My name is Marie Nganga, and I am a Kenyan of African origin. I am 38 years old. I am a Christian lesbian woman. I love God with all my heart and I love serving God through humanity.

I have a passion for writing and studying the Bible.

I am a woman of faith and I look forward to the day when all of the LGBTQ+ community will feel safe at the Lord's table.

Author:
Liggera Edmonds-Allen



Liggera Edmonds-Allen (they/them) is a Dramaturgy student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Their work revolves around transgender activism and queer joy. They love poetry, theatre, and going to the aviary!

Author: Wilfred Nyokabi

Wilfred Nyokabi

29 years

Kenyan/ African

Lesbian

Christian



I am a biracial woman and the history of this, taught by my father, was in hiding.

My father hid his identity as a black man, and we appeared to be normal Christian family. But the violence, abuse and addictions challenged me.

I spent years overcoming the pain, isolation, fear and shame of being Karen. As someone who personally experienced faith-based conversation therapy (in 1990s) I have lived and work to overcome the burden of religious judgements to embrace my own value and a relationship with a loving God.

I became an ordained clergy woman, theologian, and registered psychotherapist, journeying with people from all walks of life. After living in England for 26 years, and returning to the country of my birth, Canada, I have enjoyed working with people from different ages, genders and sexual identities, including people from all marginalized populations and cultures.

In England I worked with people from all social groups and faith communities, with special focus on past and present abuse. In Canada I have developed many services and outreach to people online and in person. We stand together, in care and community.



Zaweria Hunyu

Kenyan. African, Kenyan/kikuyu

Non-binary

Lesbian

Born again Christian

Business woman

Teacher



My names are Daniel Kihara. 45 years old. Non- binary.

Born again Christian who is saved only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am a small-scale farmer, and I live alone with my fur babies.

I believe in serving God through humanity.



Cynthia Vacca Davis is an adjunct professor with a trunk full of ungraded papers and snack wrappers.

If you come to her house, expect dogs at the door, wine on the table, and medium roast in her Industrial Bunn coffee maker. She is serious about beverages. She loves cameras, New Orleans, and stories. She overuses the word “community” because she thinks you can never have too much of that.

Cynthia is the author of *Intersexion*, a story of faith, identity and authenticity published by Lake Drive Books.

You can reach her at <https://www.cynthiavaccadavis.com>



“I grew up on a farm in rural Indiana. I went to Purdue University and then on to Regent University in Virginia Beach for law school. I started practicing law first for a small firm in Indianapolis and then eventually served 10 years in the Air Force.

The Air Force gave me the chance to live in several parts of the country, however, it was during that time that the conflict between my sexual orientation and faith became too much, so I thought I had to choose one or the other.

I walked away from a relationship with Jesus.

I made that decision in isolation without the benefit of the counsel of others.

In a way that only God could, that false dichotomy came to a resolution in October, 2013 when I firmly reconnected with God.

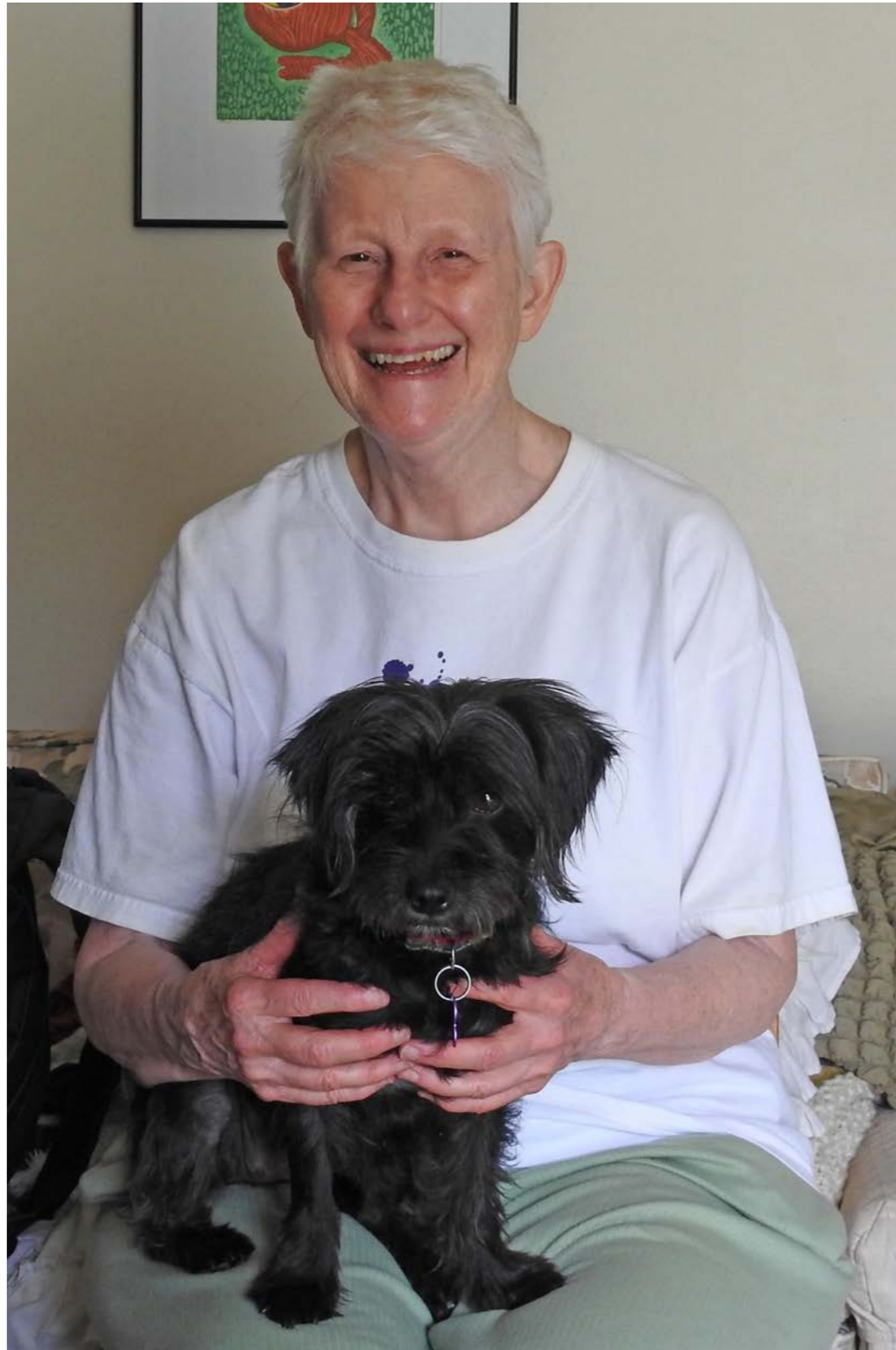


My names are Nancy Wanja Mwangi.

I am from Kenya, and I love nature.

A single mother of two boys and a born-again Christian lesbian woman.

I am a human rights activist and I advocate for LGBTQ+



I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania and went to my local parish school. After we moved to Connecticut, I attended a large public high school.

Immediately after graduating, I entered a convent where I eventually taught math and science for elementary and then high school students in Connecticut and St. Louis, Missouri.

At forty-three, feeling called to a different vocation, I left the convent, got a Ph.D. in literature at the University of California, and moved to Utah to teach for seventeen years at Weber State University from which I am now retired.

I am a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and its choir and am an associate member of our local ELCA Church, Elim Lutheran. I share a large condo with a beautiful but headstrong little mutt called Bella.



Call me Mitch. A Kenyan gay man who once felt hated and rejected.

But by meeting people like me who had found their shelter in God, it renewed my faith and trust in God. I feel like a new being and will use any avenue I have to spread the word of God and to encourage those of my kind that God loves us all.



Adrian Slonaker resides in downtown Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada in an apartment shared with a multicolored plush unicorn called Blaze.

Having completed university studies in linguistics and literature, Adrian works as a language consultant. In precious moments of free time, Adrian enjoys swimming, rock 'n roll records, naps during thunderstorms, horror films and extremely spicy vegetarian dishes.

Adrian's theological background and beliefs are somewhat eclectic and syncretic, with elements of Anabaptism (Mennonite), Anglicanism, Reform Judaism and Unitarian-Universalism in the mix.

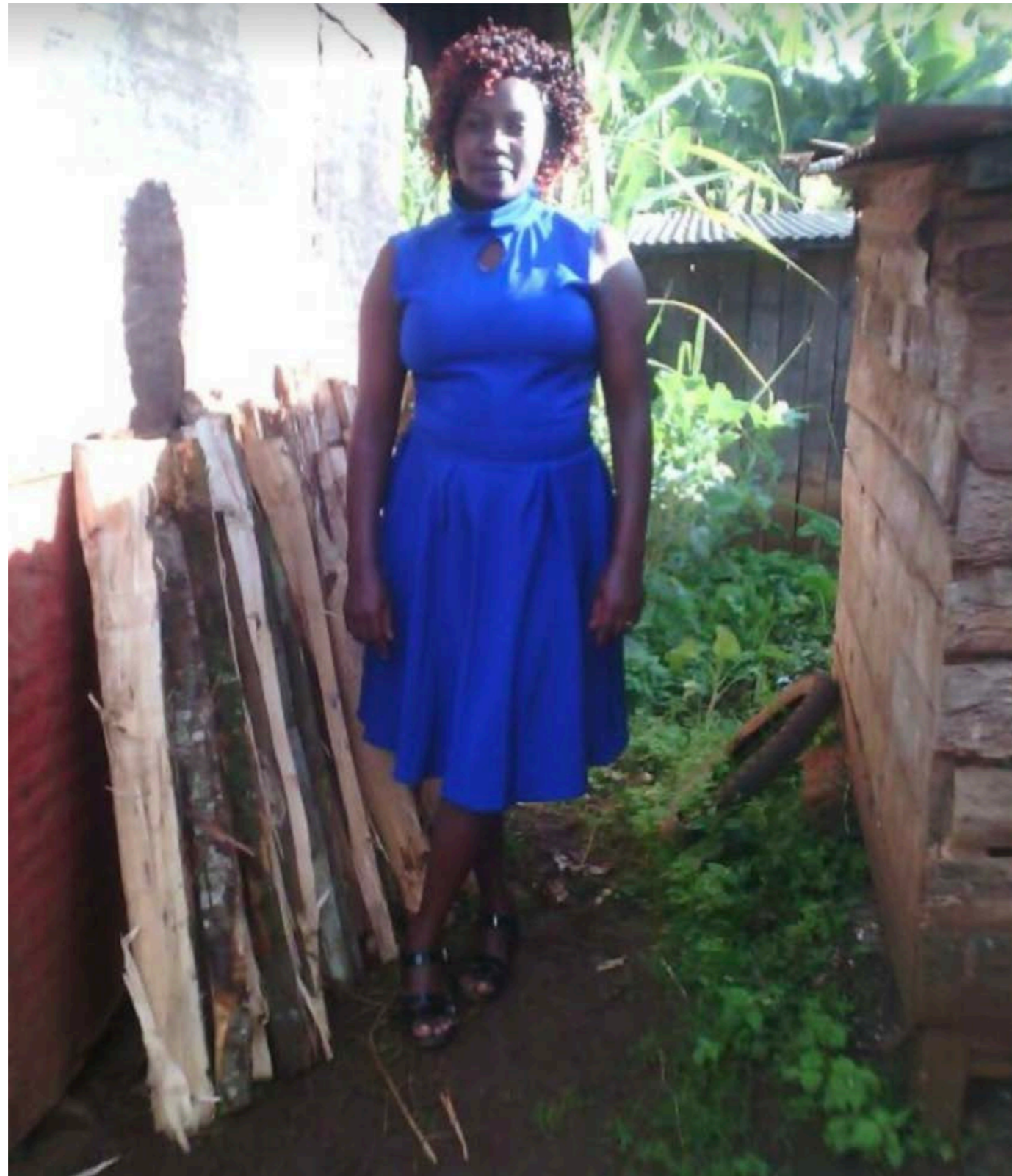
Adrian also writes poetry, stories and essays and has been published extensively in journals and anthologies. In addition, Adrian is a fan of iced non-alcoholic beverages, especially if they are bright blue.

Author: Jemima Mugo



My names are Jemima Mugo.

I am a 25 years old a born again Christian lesbian and Kenyan.



My names are Faith Mbgogo.

I am a 24 year old born again Christian and lesbian from Kenya.

Author: Vicki Thomas

Growing up in an evangelical denomination in which her father was a pastor, Vicki's spiritual journey has been an on-going process of learning and unlearning her way back to the heart of God.

Her professional background includes working as a therapist in the fields Neuropsychology & Clinical Counseling, and as an Instructor at a Christian University. She is a trained Spiritual Director and has served as Chaplain to Pastoral Staff within the Nazarene denomination.

Vicki's passion is helping people awaken to the beauty of their own unique soul; and to offer them a safe, loving space in which to experience unconditional, healing love.

She enjoys journaling, listening to neuroscience podcasts, doing yoga and attending silent retreats. Above all, she loves going deep into the roots of Christian Mysticism where she finds encouragement to live in the freedom for which Christ has set her free, and longs for others to know that freedom as well.

She & her husband live in Alpena, MI, close to the beautiful shores of Lake Huron, where they enjoy hiking, spending time with their two beloved grandchildren and their two adorable shelties.

Author: Stephen Maina



My Names are Stephen Maina.

I am Kenyan aged 26 years.

I am a born again gay Christian.

Author: Jared Dixon



Jared Dixon is a writer and conversion therapy (CT) survivor who lives in Baltimore County, Maryland with his husband.

He is the finance manager for the non-profit organization, CT Survivors, a support group that provides holistic peer support for survivors of conversion therapy.

Jared is also the vice-president of the Baltimore chapter of DignityUSA, an organization committed to sacramental and social justice for LGBTQ+ people and their friends and families within the Catholic church.

In his spare time, Jared enjoys reading, baking, and yoga, and loves sharing his favorite books on his Instagram page. To learn more about Jared's story and writings, follow him on Twitter (@pianoguy_11) and Instagram (@dijared13).

Author: Tori Allen

Tori Allen is an educator in the juvenile justice system. She played college basketball at Weber State University and is an enthusiastic skier, swimmer and pickle ball player.

Author: Boniface Waweru



I am a gay christian and I love God.

I have 30 yrs and I fellowship with pastor Megan in Kenya.



My journey began in Ogden, Utah and I love hailing from the "rough" part of Utah.

I grew up a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints (often referred to as the Mormons). At the age of 21, I left home to serve a proselyting mission for the church to southern Germany.

My faith foundation was shattered when, at age 40, I could no longer deny my orientation and gender identity. When I walked out of the closet, I also thought I was walking away from God.

I struggled reconciling my relationship with God and I am grateful He never gave up on me. I will always be grateful for the wonderful people at the United Church of Christ congregation I found during this time.

It was in that chapel I was reintroduced to God, who loved and accepted me, just as I was. My faith journey continues and I am so grateful for experiences, such as this, that allow me to rejoice in the word of God and worship Him.

Author: Sakwa Josama



I am a Kenyan youth under the umbrella of rainbow brothers and sisters.



Shirley has spent the last four decades working in the context of Christian higher education, first in Student Life as a Resident Director, then in the classroom as a Professor of European History, and finally as a Chief Academic Officer and College President.

Throughout this journey, her primary commitment has been to individual students—helping each of them to identify their own gifts and to have the courage to live out their calling to be their truest self in the world—as their offering to God and to others.

She has written in the area of Enlightenment History on such diverse characters as David Hume, Hannah More, and John Wesley, and believes in the redemptive power of God at work in the context of our individual stories.

Author: Samuel Thirikwa



Samuel Thirikwa

Kenyan

Gay

30 years

Author: Golde Sosenko

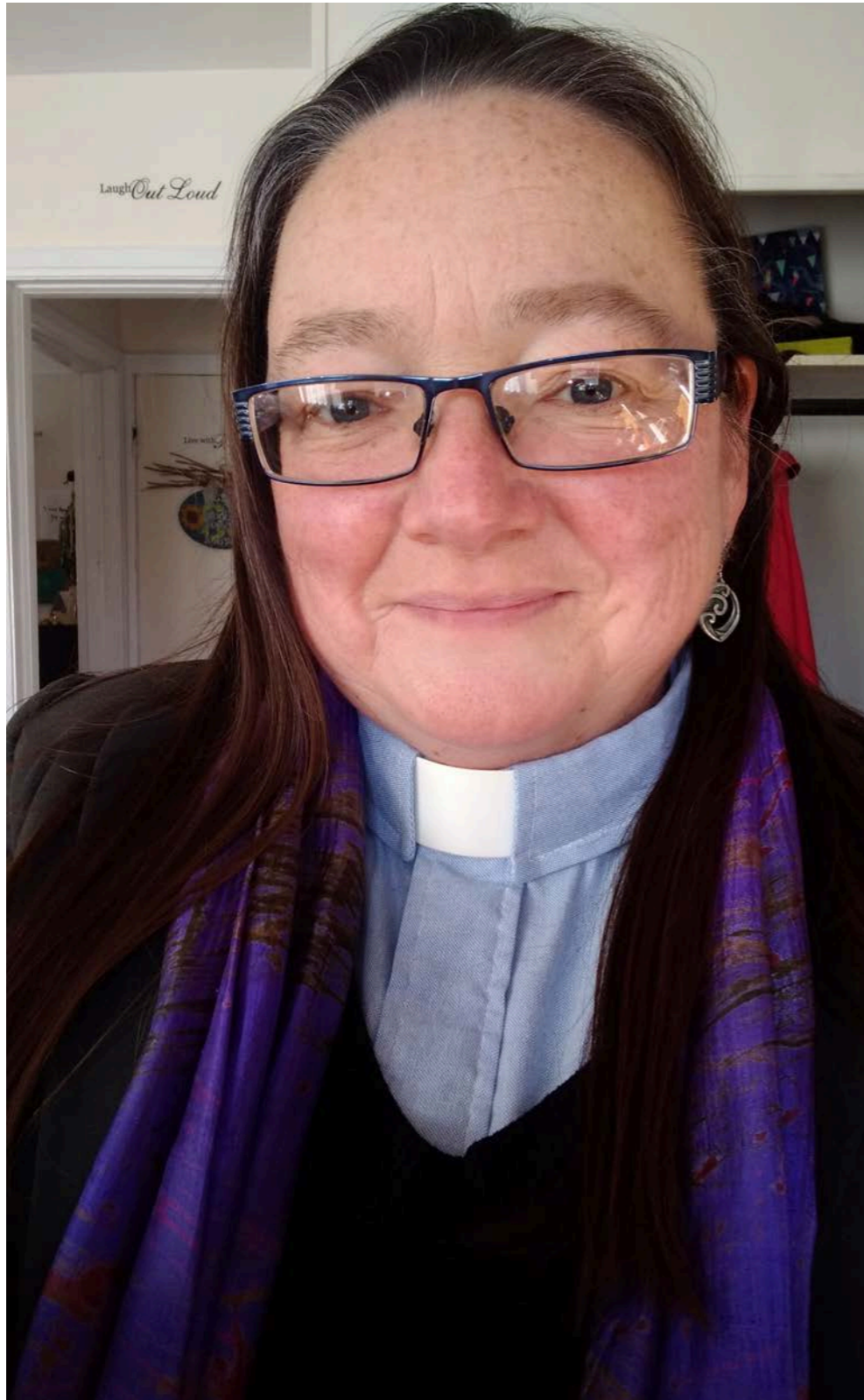


Golde Borezinska Sosenko was born somewhere Outside the Pale and left that legacy.

She married and had ten living children. Many of her children and grandchildren went on to lead very interesting lives.

Some of them fought for justice.

Author: Rev. Dr. Darlene Brewer

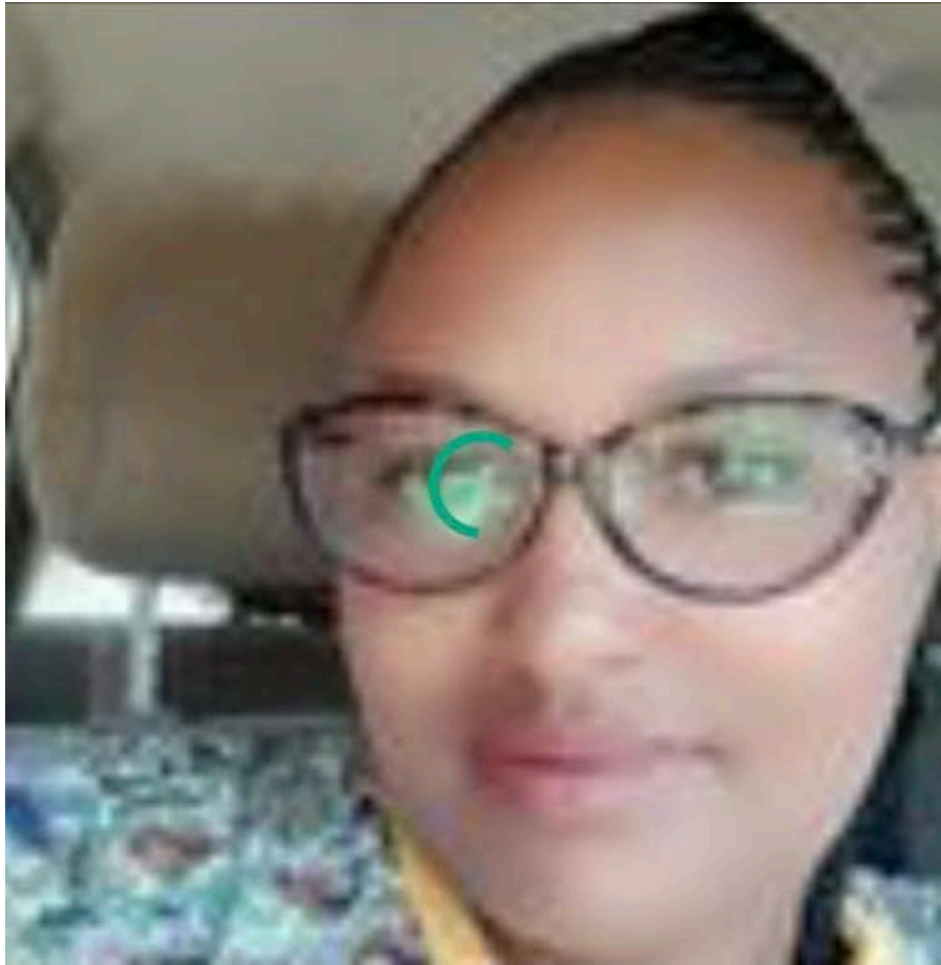


Rev. Dr. Darlene Brewer is a feminist theologian and ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada and the U.S., serving the congregation of Wyndholme Christian Church in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Darlene Brewer has worked in urban chaplaincy drop-ins and centres, churches, and universities, as a teacher, mentor, program coordinator, and minister. Two of her true passions are teaching and ministry.

She is delighted to occasionally teach online courses for Atlantic School of Theology and through her own work with Forest Streams Retreats & Workshops.

Darlene was born in Newfoundland and Labrador. She loves walking, visiting the beach, and getting to know people.

Author: Jacklin Wambui

My names are Jacklin Wambui from Mukurweini and I fellowship with Pastor Megan whom I was introduced to by Nancy our youth group patron.

I was so lonely and am happy with my new family now.

Author: Giacomo Liggera



I am a solitary Wiccan practitioner who believes in nature and humanity's interconnectedness.

I grew up in New York but currently live in Utah with my miniature Aussie, Bubba.

I am a graduate student at the University of Utah and a proud genderqueer person.

Author: Rahab Wambui



Rahab Wambui

Kenyan

22 years

lesbian

Author: Rev. Melissa Lynn Guthrie



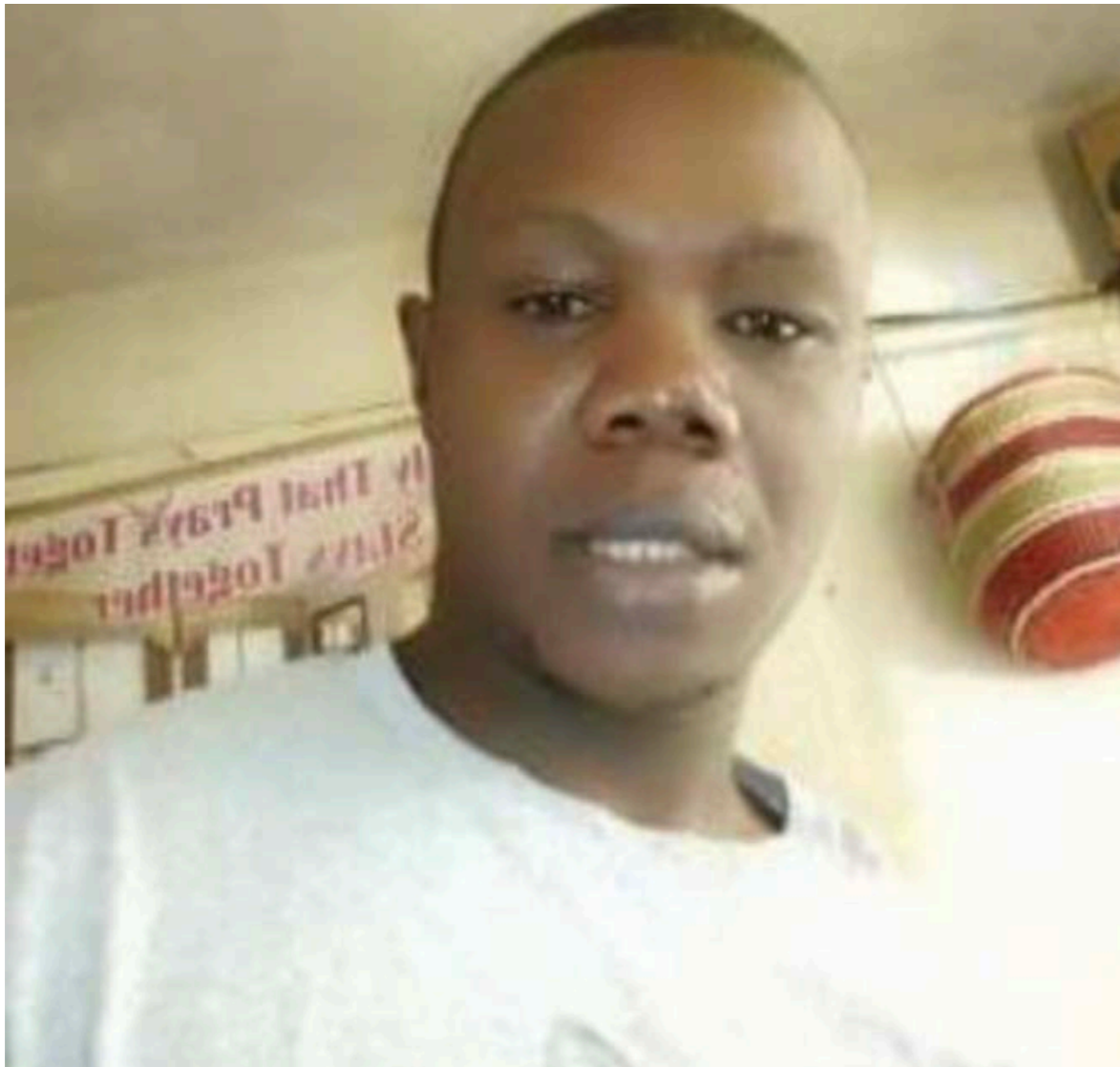
Rev. Melissa Lynn Guthrie (she/her) is a mother and a minister.

She is the Executive Director + Minister with AllianceQ—the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance and the founding director of Salvage Garden.

She created “The Banquet: A Sensory Worship Experience,” centering disabled individuals.

Melissa is trained in faith-based nonprofit leadership through Wake Forest University Divinity and Law Schools. She enjoys cheesecake and cycling, in that order. Melissa likes being outdoors and reading and writing poetry (outdoors). Pink and yellow are her favorite colors. She is the editor of *Colors of Hope: A Devotional Journal from LGBTQ+ Christians*.

Melissa (left) and her wife, Leah, live in Greensboro, North Carolina, with their children and a small zoo.

Author: David Mwaura

My names are David Mwaura. I am 30 years old.

A Kenyan of African origin. I am a born again gay Christian man. I love God and I love serving Him.

Author: Rev. Yadi Martínez Reyna



Rev. Yadi Martínez Reyna is a bilingual Latinx gender non-conforming artist, UCC Licensed Minister, Pastor, and borderlander, born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas.

Yadi serves as the LGBTQIA Unconscious Bias Awareness Facilitator with ten+ years of experience working with young people in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area. Their work includes using arts and networking skills to create community events, retreats, leadership conferences, and safe spaces.

Yadi is a certified facilitator in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum, which provides comprehensive sexuality education for young people. Yadi serves as a Youth Pastor at New Church, Chiesa Nuova, UCC, Dallas, Texas, and at First UCC in Second Life, where they are a part of a virtual reality congregation.

Yadi has contributed to the Progressive Youth Ministry Blog that can be found on [Patheos.com](https://patheos.com) and at UCC Encuentros y Bienvenida LGBTQ+ Inclusive toolkits.

Author: Elizabeth Moraa



My names are Elizabeth Moraa. An African of Kenyan origin, I am 20 years.

Pursuing studies in theological studies because I want to know God More.

I am a Christian. And I love God with all heart.

I have struggled with my sexuality for so long but Now at I am at peace because I have reconciled with myself as a transgender woman.

Author: Ash Mason

Hey hey! I'm ash, my pronouns are she/her, and I find the greatest joy in getting to know the most intricate nature of humanity.

I have a couple too many theology degrees and am pursuing education to become a therapist. I work in an acute psychiatric hospital with individuals in active psychosis, schizophrenia, and so much more.

I have found that God dwells in the ashes of humanity, in the people that have been burnt by life... in mental wellness, I have found particularly that God is with the individuals in acute mental illness that try to kill me just as much as a packed church on a Sunday. This, my friends, is where I find great delight..the God of the ordinary, unusual, and all around beautiful.

Author: Dorcas Kiki

I am Dorcas Kiki, a Kenyan transgender woman who loves God with all my heart.

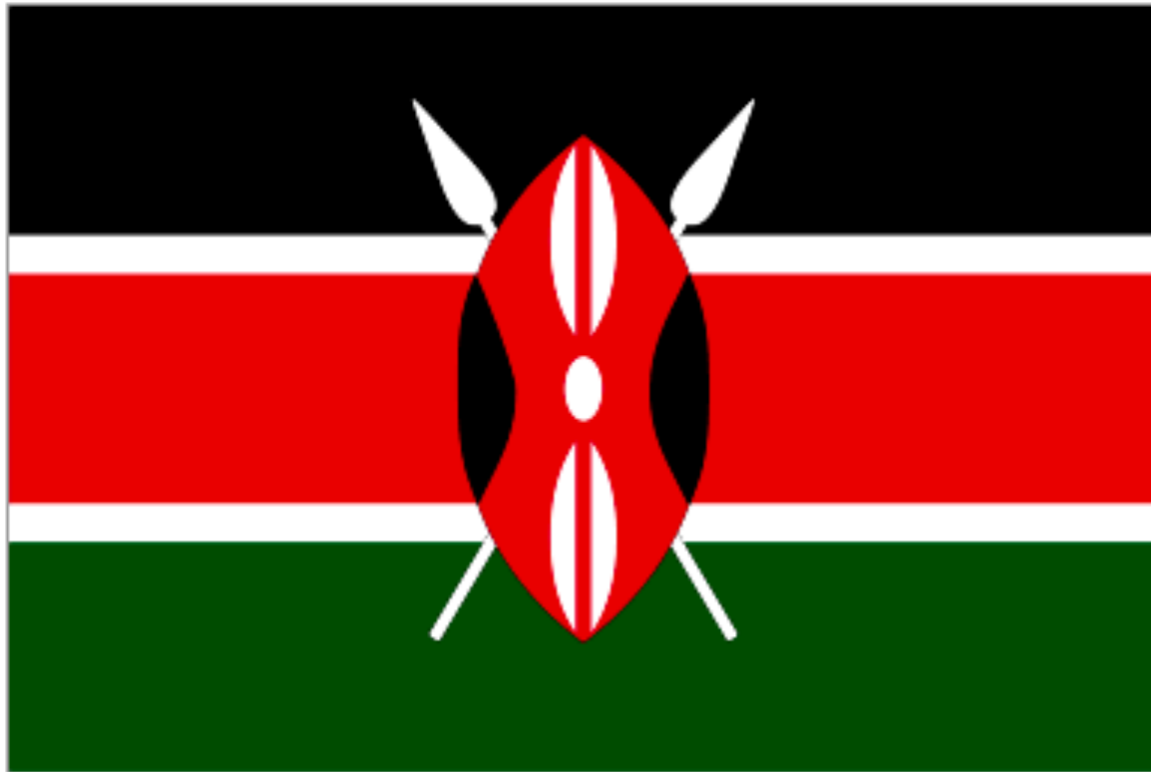
Author: Lisa Whitesell

Lisa was born and raised in Oklahoma. Retired professional musician and teacher. Cresting at the time of her retirement, she taught public school music for 28 years along with adjunct teaching at an urban community college for 18 years and more than 30 years of service as a part-time minister of music in suburban mainline denominational churches.

Lisa describes her experience of the Holy as being grounded in biblical roots and polished by writings of mystics from many faith traditions. Inspiration from experiencing great art, literature and music send her spirit soaring.

A fierce lover of dogs, mountains, trees, and all bodies of water, Lisa is blissfully married to the kindest woman in the universe.

Author: Josphine Wambui



I am Josphine Wambui aged 38 years from Kenya.

I am part of the fellowship which is led by our Pastor Megan.

I must confess the hope and love we get in that fellowship is just wonderful and may God keep us together as each others keeper.

I am a lesbian Christ is my personal saviour and I believe in God's protection and powers.

Author: Monica Wambui



I am Monica Wambui, Kenyan citizen, aged 26years, a Christian lesbian.

I love worshipping God, and I am born again.

Author: Rev. Rob Van Ess

Rev. Rob Van Ess

Pastor Rob is the Pastor & Teacher at Pilgrim Church United Church of Christ (UCC) in Fond du Lac, WI.

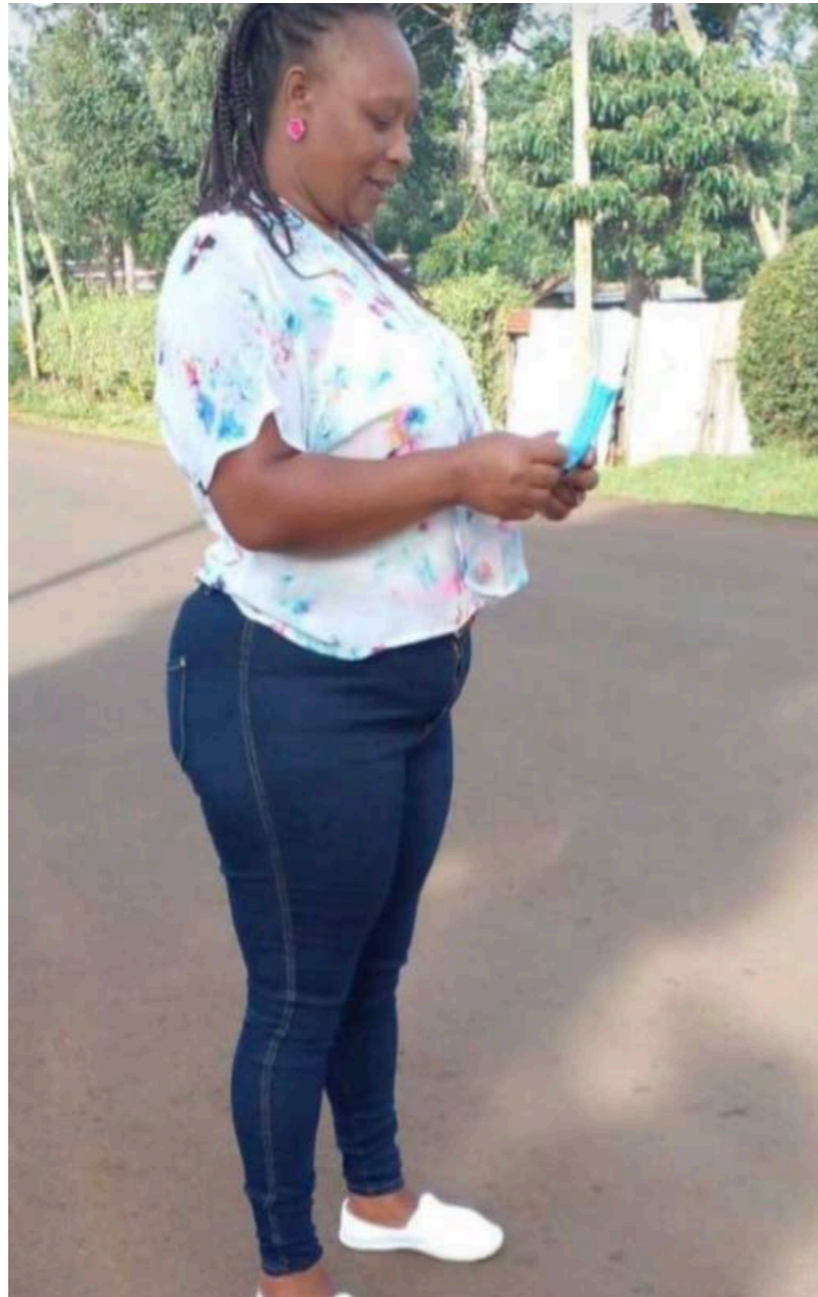
They graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO and is a trained clinical chaplain having served a residency at The University for Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock with The College for Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

Pastor Rob is an ordained minister in the UCC. (UCC).

Having grown up in Green Bay, they have served churches and hospitals in Missouri, Indiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and now “back home” in Wisconsin. They carry a passion for all things discovered at the intersection of queerness and faith.

Rob (he/they) and their husband Nicky (he/him/his) just celebrated 19 years together and enjoy spending time with their two cats DeeDee and Dexter.

Author: Lucy Wanjiru



I am Lucy Wanjiru, A Kenyan of African origin.
born again Christian lesbian woman.

I love God and I trust Him with my life.

Author: Anonymous



Three decades of Pastoring background as well as Senior Management experience in a variety of secular firms. His business management skills, combined with his education, have been a blessing in equipping him to encourage others to great growth.

He was raised in a very conservative upbringing, but throughout his calling to ministry he has constantly worked with an ecumenical approach to magnifying the work of the Kingdom across denominational and cultural boundaries.

He holds:

- DMin in Christian Counseling
- MA in Pastoral Counseling
- BA in Religious Education

Currently he works with a mission group and travels overseas extensively. In addition to this, he is in the groundwork to develop an online Pastoral Counseling, Support ministry.

He has been asked to create a series based on lessons learned in 30+ years of ministry.

Author: Jimmy

Jimmy has lived and loved in the Washington, DC, area for 17 years but his hometown is Tucson, Arizona.

His day job is a pretty basic federal employee that aspires to be like Leslie Knope. Otherwise, his days are spent enjoying people, food, tv/movies, music, languages, and teaching spin classes (come visit me at VIDA Fitness)

Author: Jane Wanjigi

My names are Jane Wanjigi, 45 yrs Kenyan.

A lesbian woman who loves God with all my heart.

I love traveling and meeting new people.

Author: Rufus Mugo



I am a 40 year old farmer from Kenya.

I am a born again Christian and I am transgender and I believe God loves me the way I am since He is my creator.

Author: Edward Moran

Three of Edward Moran's hymn texts were included in *Songs for the Holy Other: Hymns Affirming the LGBTQIA2S+ Community*, published in 2019 by the Hymn Society of North America. He has long been a member of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, New York. He is pictured here sitting in the pew of poet Marianne Moore, who was also a member of that congregation. *Photo by Alison Cornyn.*

Author: Paul Moran

My name is Paul Nderitu
Gay man from Kenya.
I love Jesus.

I enjoy traveling and outdoor activities.



Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen is the executive director of Parity, an NYC-based national nonprofit that works at the intersection of faith and LGBT concerns, director of Blessed by Difference, and author at Family Christian.

Marian attended Western Theological Seminary and Eden Theological Seminary and has served in many pastoral capacities, including church planting, parish ministry, and chaplaincy. She is a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Eden Theological Seminary (2023) with the topic Covenantal Pluralism and Mission: Evidence for Healing the LGBT and Faith Divide. Marian is married, has four children, and is a passionate skier and outdoor enthusiast.

Thank you for joining us during this Lenten Season!

If you have questions, comments, need help - or would like to write - please be in touch. We always want to hear from you - that is the spirit of Holy Dialogues. Be in touch by emailing marian@parity.nyc

We also have wonderful Converge Groups for you to be part of.
Everyone is welcome. EVERY one.

Remember, God loves you!

